

# **FITZGERALD'S TOWN**

## **LINCOLN IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**



**NEVILLE MOAR**



1. *James Edward Fitzgerald. Photographer H.C. Barker, courtesy of the Canterbury Museum.*

First published in a print edition in 2011 by N.T. Moar

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Edited by Alison Barwick

This second edition published digitally in 2018 by the  
*Lincoln and District Historical Society* in collaboration with the  
*Lincoln University Museum and Documentary Heritage Committee*

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Edited by Roger Dawson, Joanne Moar, Rupert Tipples

ISBN 978-0-86476-430-0 (PDF)

## FOREWORD

When *Fitzgerald's Town – Lincoln in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century* was first published in 2011, Neville Moar's history of Victorian Lincoln, New Zealand, added to the growing body of serious studies of a small colonial community. He published the book himself with support from Selwyn District Council's Creative Communities Scheme. Over the next two years, Neville distributed the 205 copies of the book via the Manaaki Whenua Press Bookstore and at the Lincoln Farmers & Craft Market. By the time of his death in June 2016, the book was well and truly sold out.

Neville had been President and subsequently Patron of Lincoln & Districts Historical Society (L&DHS newsletter, Issue 42, December 2016). He left the rights to his book and his research materials to the Society. When studying the computer files for the book *Fitzgerald's Town – Lincoln in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*, it became apparent that the published version had fewer pictures and plans than Neville had originally intended. Subsequently, as a memorial to Neville, the Society decided, with the agreement of the Moar family, to produce a second edition. This was to be supplemented by the previously unused photos and plans and others thought useful in illustrating the subject matter.

To keep the costs of a second edition down an e-book format was suggested, hosted on the [Lincoln University Living Heritage: Tikaka Toku Iho](#) site. This had the added advantage of making Neville's book available worldwide to anyone with access to the internet. Thus Neville's carefully researched history would be available to school children and students as well as older readers, and at no expense.

The new edition is provided in A4 rather than A5 format and a larger font on the advice of Roger Dawson who manages the Living Heritage site. Roger had also helped Neville with some of his property research on early Lincoln. He has been instrumental in facilitating this new edition, spending many hours researching and rescanning photographs. He joins Joanne Moar, Neville's daughter and myself, Rupert Tipples, on the editorial panel overseeing the work.

We have made some editorial policy decisions about the images used in this new edition. Where we have been able to source an adequate nineteenth century photo where Neville had used a twentieth century one we have preferred the older picture to give a feel for the times. Thus the cover photo is now Gerald Street looking east to St. Stephens Anglican Church, not a modern photo of the Mill Pond, and we have new pictures for the final chapter "The end of the century", which reflect the end of the Victorian era and the start of Edwardian times.

Even since the book was first published in 2011, change in Lincoln has been exponential. With this second edition we wish to make Neville's valuable "labour of love" a lasting resource, accessible to all. To finish with Neville's words: "This account deals with the foundation years from 1862 to 1900, and it is left to others to take the story forward into the 20th and 21st centuries."

The editors, Roger Dawson, Joanne Moar and Rupert Tipples. February 2018.

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Cover: A view of Lincoln looking across the bridge over L1, towards St. Stephen's Anglican Church

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## MONEY AND MEASUREMENTS

The systems for money, area and linear measurements employed in this work are those in use when Lincoln was founded. They were only superseded in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

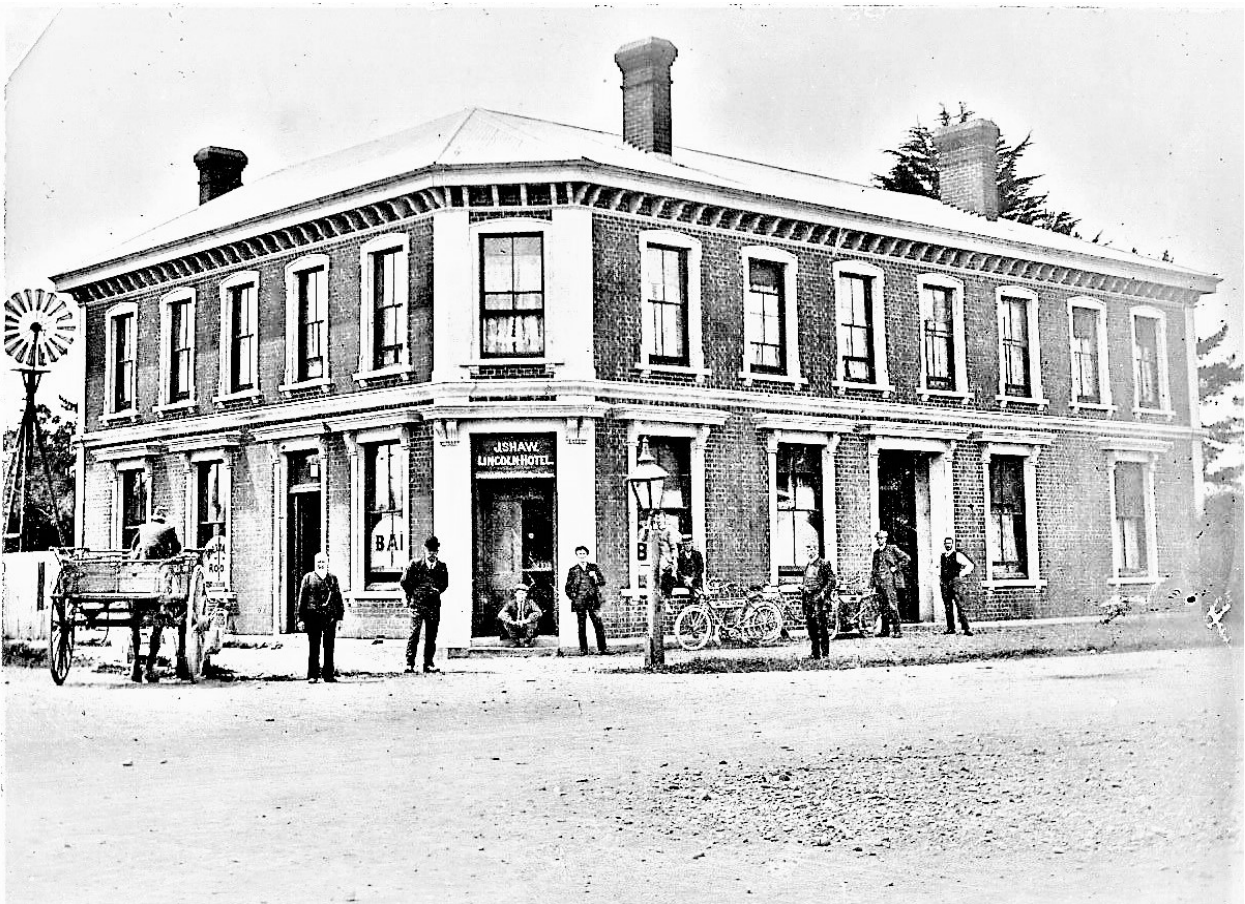
Money: To allow for inflation since 1862 refer to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's inflation calculator at [www.rbnz.govt.nz](http://www.rbnz.govt.nz)

One pound (£1) = two dollars (\$2.00); twenty shillings = one pound; twelve pence = one shilling.

Area: One acre = 0.0405 hectares (40 perches = 1 rood; 4 roods = 1 acre).

Length: One mile = 1.609 kilometres; one chain (22 yards) = 20.908 metres; one yard (3 feet) = 0.914 metres; one foot (12 inches) = 0.304 metres.

Weight: One ton (2240 pounds) = 1.016 tonnes; one pound = 0.453 kilograms.



2. The Lincoln Hotel, J. Shaw proprietor. Courtesy Lincoln and Districts Historical Society.

## INTRODUCTION

I came to live in Lincoln at the end of 1964 and bought an old cottage which like the rest of the village was not reticulated for sewage or water. To take a bath it was necessary to heat water in the copper, fill the bath with a bucket, and bathe in a dilapidated shed outside. During the forty or more years since there have been many changes, including the reticulation of sewage and water. The most spectacular, however, has been the rapid growth of the town, particularly over the last two decades, as it has spread beyond the confines of the four Belts – the original boundaries. As the population has increased there has been a corresponding burgeoning of business from the Market Square precinct to The Vale opposite the library and most recently the building of a New World supermarket opposite the Crown Research Institutes on Gerald Street.

An interest in local history led to my involvement with the Pioneer and Early Settlers Association and the Liffey Cottage Action Committee. The first was concerned with collecting material relevant to early Lincoln, especially photographs, and housing it in the Pioneer Hall, and the second set about preserving a dilapidated 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage in Market Square earmarked for demolition to make way for a supermarket. The cottage was saved, and known as Liffey Cottage now stands in James Street next to the Union Church. However, despite an interest in the past, the demands of work and family meant that my activities were largely restricted to those of a committee member and the occasional weekend working bee.

During those years we would hear tales of the early days and some proved to be more fanciful than fact. One such was that village fairs were held in Market Square, another that the Coronation Library, and latterly until 2009 the Toy Library, commemorated the coronation of Edward VII, and yet another that a miller fell into the mill pond, was drowned, and sadly, despite the best efforts of all concerned, his body was never recovered. However, it was not until retirement that I had time to follow these up and although it was obvious that one should start at the beginning, it was not so easy to decide just how far forward to go. Since there was little hope of a newcomer knowing much about family relationships in a long established and stable community, and since details of the earliest times were sketchy, albeit with some exceptions, it seemed sensible to restrict interest to the 19<sup>th</sup> century although research was carried forward to the 20<sup>th</sup> century when it seemed necessary to do so. It was also apparent that because some of those involved in the events discussed lived outside the village and in other communities, it was necessary to stray into areas

which may appear to be beyond the scope of this account. Samuel Dening Glyde provides an example. He was the first clerk and surveyor to both the Springs and Lincoln Road Boards, active in promoting ploughing competitions in the wider district, a member of the Lincoln Fair Company based in the village, and played a leading role in establishing the Broadfield school among other things. The story of the Southbridge railway line is another example of the need to go beyond the town belts to appreciate that Lincoln history is intimately connected to people whose living and interests were not restricted to the village.

It was, in any case, an exciting period. Road Boards faced the challenge of building roads and bridges and draining swamps in order to open up the region to settlement. Schools and churches were built, the Southbridge railway line was opened, provincial government was abolished, and in the last decade of the century women were given the right to vote and the district, like the rest of New Zealand, was caught up in the trauma of the Boer War.

An aspect of village history that has not received much attention relates to the sale of sections following subdivision: who bought them, what price was paid for them, and what their subsequent history was. These questions were tackled by searching records held by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and in the process details relevant to the general pattern of business activity during the 19<sup>th</sup> century were uncovered. Publications such as The Southern Provinces Almanac and Wise's Post Office Directory, available for reference at the Aotearoa New Zealand Centre, Christchurch City Libraries, were also helpful in this regard.

Because there are various accounts discussing the history of the primary and secondary schools, the churches, and the university there has been no attempt to repeat what they have to say; rather, it is hoped that any information offered adds a new dimension to what is already known of them. There is also a surprising amount of information to be found about different aspects of Lincoln life in apparently unrelated publications and these, together with those noted above, are listed in the attached bibliography. There is also much that was new to me, perhaps because of my late arrival in the district, but also because, to some extent at least, some of what is recorded here has been lost to the collective memory. It is this information especially, which I hope provides a better appreciation of the men and women who lived through the beginnings of what is now a thriving township and which was described in such glowing terms in those early advertisements announcing that sales of sections in the new sub-division were about to begin.

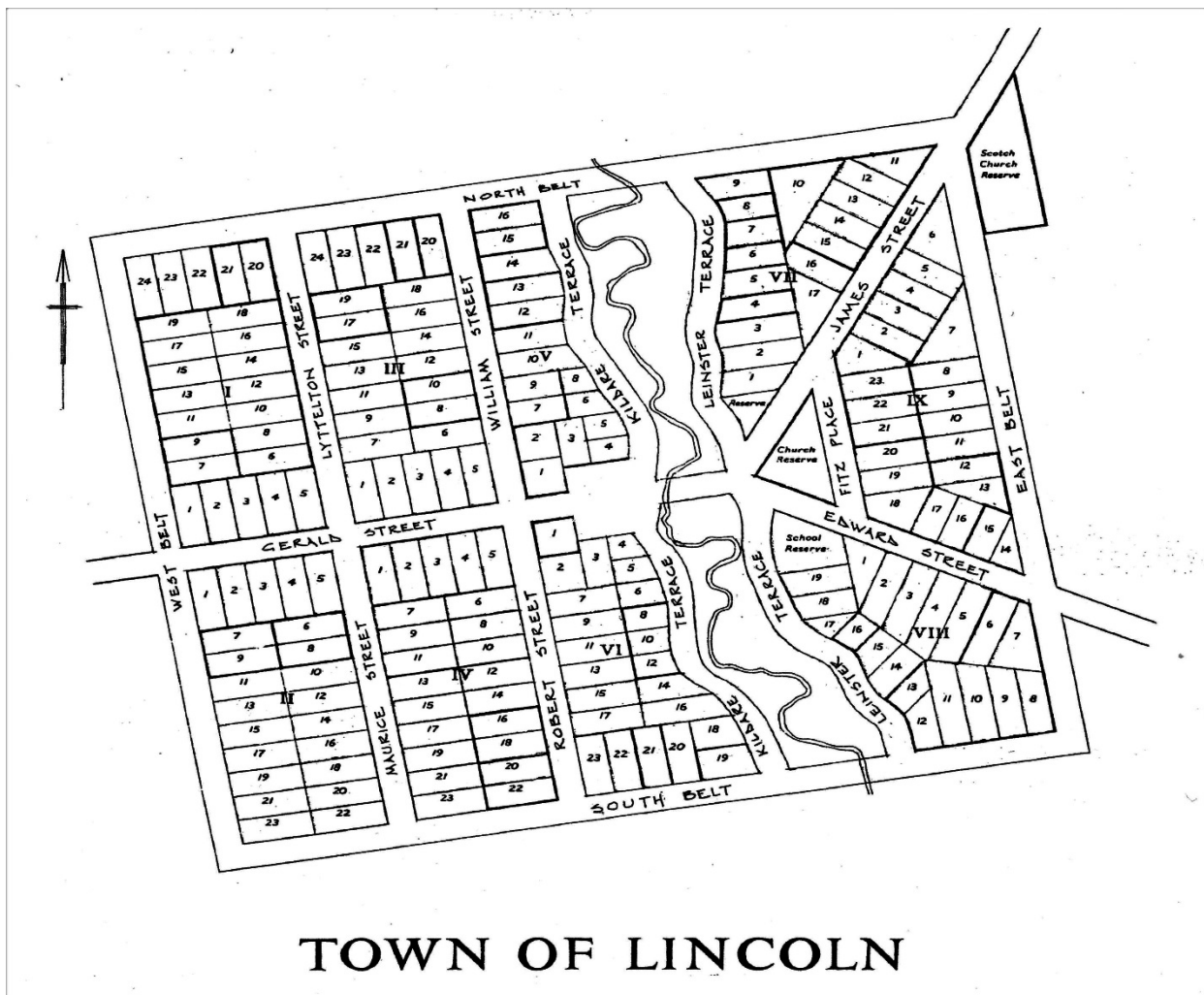


In this context I acknowledge the help given by staff at LINZ, the Aotearoa New Zealand Centre at Christchurch City Libraries, Canterbury Museum, Archives New Zealand, Selwyn District Council, the Cotter Medical Museum, the Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Methodist archivists, members of the Lincoln and Districts Historical Society, especially Margaret Morrish, the City of Norwood Payneham and St. Peters, South Australia, the local historians at Rockingham, Western Australia, and all those who in their search for their roots discovered facts which they willingly shared. I thank Alison Barwick for her care in editing the manuscript, my daughter Joanne for her comments and suggestions, Wayne Kay for his skill in drawing the maps presented in this work and Maria for her continued patience and support. Nevertheless, any errors or omissions are my responsibility.

*Neville Moar*

## THE BEGINNING

Lincoln is a thriving township 21 km south of Christchurch, home to about 3,000 people, part of the network of small towns in the Selwyn District and an important research centre. *Lincoln University*, offices and laboratories of several Crown Research Institutes, including *AgResearch*, *Landcare Research*, and *Plant and Food*, are all located there. It has excellent educational facilities from pre-school through to tertiary level, a large medical centre, a dental centre, a veterinary practice, four active churches and all other services necessary to provide and maintain the infrastructure of a small town. This was not the case in 1862 when James Edward FitzGerald, the first Superintendent of the Province of Canterbury, first editor of the *Lyttelton Times*, founder of *The Press*, and lease holder of the Springs Run, sub-divided a block of land to found a town he believed would service the growing rural population in the area.



3. The Lincoln Subdivision. Drawn by Wayne Kay, based on DRP 21 Land Information New Zealand.

In June 1862 J. Ollivier & Sons advertised the sale, by auction, of sections in the new town of Lincoln at their rooms in Christchurch.<sup>1</sup> The new town had much to recommend it. A stream of clear water ran through the town, land adjacent to the stream was to be permanently reserved as public gardens, a flour mill was soon to be established, and about the centre of the town there would be reserves for churches, schools and a courthouse. The surrounding countryside was being settled rapidly and would therefore provide work for blacksmiths and other trades people such as butchers and bakers. Further, a railway line to Little River was about to be built and the road to the eastern hills would provide ready access to their forests.

Despite this optimism, Eric Reginald Chudleigh, who was working for FitzGerald as a cadet, was not particularly impressed when he walked around the town in July 1862.<sup>2</sup> Then settlers faced an empty and bleak landscape. Swamps of raupo, flax and toetoe to the east stretched from Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere) north to the estuary and beyond, and the windswept tussock-covered Canterbury plains stretched 40 km to the front ranges in the west. T. W. Adams remembered that then the plains were "entirely destitute of anything that could fairly be called a tree" and "so free was the plains of any object to interfere with the sight, that Riccarton Bush could be distinctly seen on a clear day, ten or twelve miles away", a sight often seen from Weedons in the early days of settlement.<sup>3</sup> However, there were scattered cabbage trees, especially on wetter land, and native broom, tutu, flax and toetoe followed the edges of steep-sided streams meandering across the plains and into and through the swamps.

#### THE TOWN OF LINCOLN.

##### LINCOLN DISTRICT.

#### TOWNSHIP IN THE LARGEST AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT IN THE PROVINCE.

**M**ESSRS. J. OLLIVIER & SON have been favored with instructions to sell by Public Auction, at their Rooms, Cashel and High streets, on an early date,

The Quarter-Acre Sections applied for in the  
TOWNSHIP OF LINCOLN.

When the Canterbury Settlement was first laid out by Capt. Thomas, a site was set apart for a town in that large and rich agricultural district which lies in the angle between Banks Peninsula and Lake Ellesmere. The Government having abandoned the intention of making a town for this district, and the necessity for a town becoming daily more apparent as the country becomes peopled and occupied, the original plan of Captain Thomas has been revised and the town of Lincoln is now laid out and offered for sale by private proprietors.

The site of the town of Lincoln as now laid out differing somewhat from that originally proposed, is on the banks of a stream known as No. 1 Gully, running from trig. pole 1 in the Lincoln district towards the Peninsula hills. It is situated on good dry land lying on both sides of the valley, which is at this place about twenty feet deep, having a beautiful stream of clear and delicious water running rapidly at the bottom.

Two public roads meet at the stream, and join into one at the bridge, which will form a handsome object in the centre of the town, having clustered around it the reserves for churches, schools, market place and court house. A broad terrace is carried down each side of the stream, and the whole of the slope on both sides of the water, comprising about eight acres, will be set apart for ever as public gardens for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants.

At a very short distance below the town a flour mill will shortly be erected on the same stream.

Such is the extent of land already in cultivation in the neighbourhood, and so rapidly are fresh farms being occupied, that blacksmiths and other mechanics would already find an excellent opening for business, while a country inn, a store, a butcher's and a baker's shop, would also find abundant custom. The close neighbourhood of the mill will create a good market for flour in the town.

But above all, this town will be amply supplied with firewood and building materials: the Lower Lincoln road, which runs through the centre of the town, passes through the swamp, and crossing the river Halswell, reaches the base of the hills at about three miles distance from Lincoln, which is thus placed within four miles of the extensive forests of the Peninsula. The money for opening this road is already voted, and the work is about to be undertaken immediately by the Government.

It may be added that the Little River railway about to be commenced, will run a little more than a mile from Lincoln, so that a short branch line will connect it with the forests of Little River on the one side and with the market in the City of Christchurch on the other.

It may be said that no site can be found in the whole of this large district which contains the same advantages of dry healthy situation, rising well above the swamp, excellent water and abundant supply of fuel and building materials, and which lies in the main thoroughfare through the

#### PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT in the Province.

UPSET PRICE:—£12 PER QUARTER-ACRE.

Lots applied for will be submitted to Public Auction from time to time, and if there is no further advance, will be declared sold to the applicant. Terms—One-third, cash; balance in 6 and 12 months.

For particulars, &c., apply to  
J. OLLIVIER & SON,  
Auctioneers.

Cashel and High Streets,  
June, 20, 1862.

2383

#### 4. Advertisement for Lincoln

Bracken, still to be seen today, grew on dry sandy ridges in various places, and some near Lincoln extended into the swamps.

This was a lonely landscape. It was described as such by the Revd. Stack who accompanied Bishop Harper on his visit to the Canterbury and Otago districts in 1859 – 1860.<sup>4</sup> The Bishop and his party used guides, for there were no roads or tracks except close to the towns, and without assistance first-time travellers could easily lose their way. They left the road at the old Waimakariri river bed, at about the intersection of Halswell Junction Road and Springs Road, and then on for miles there was nothing but an endless sea of featureless tussock land.

Although they appear to be flat the plains are made up of large overlapping low angle gravel fans formed by vast volumes of gravels flushed from major river valleys, such as the Waimakariri and Rakaia, as glaciers advanced and receded over the last 2.5 million years. During periods of recession, the interglacials, when climate was much as it is today, erosion was greatly reduced and vegetation was able to establish on the developing soils. Smaller rivers rise in the front ranges and flow eastwards in the depressions between the fans, and of these the Selwyn River is locally the most important. Other rivers and streams, including the Halswell and the L1 and L2 rivers at Lincoln, drained into and through the swamps, now mostly drained, and flow into the large shallow lake, Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere), to the south.<sup>5</sup> The hills of Banks Peninsula to the east are the eroded remains of two ancient volcanoes and provide a dramatic background to the landscape.

The soils of the district vary,<sup>6</sup> there are the shallow to deep free draining soils on the flood plains of the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers, heavy clay and organic soils of the former extensive swamps to the east, and saline soils closer to Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere). Many of the soils to the west are stony and prone to drought, but the recent widespread use of irrigation has relieved this, although its application is not without its problems. Most of the land in the district supports dairying, cropping, horticulture, and stables for the breeding and training of race horses.

These soils carried mixed vegetation when Polynesian migrants first arrived. Banks Peninsula was largely forested, the extensive wetlands were well wooded around their margins, and open forest covered the plains. The character of the forests varied from matai, especially along the flanks of the rivers, and kahikatea in the wetter land marginal to the swamps, to extensive areas of kanuka and manuka on the drier stony ground. This pattern was destroyed by fire during the Polynesian



period and the process was accelerated by the arrival of European migrants who flooded into the country from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The woodland was replaced by tussock which spread from the riverbeds and mountains to develop grassland which had last dominated the landscape between 18,000 and 14,000 years ago during the coldest phase of the last glaciation.

The first Polynesian migrants were the Waitaha who arrived about 700 years ago and were displaced some 300 years later by the eastern North Island Ngati Mamoe. The Ngati Mamoe in their turn were overpowered by the Ngai Tahu whose most celebrated settlement, Kaiapoi Pa, was destroyed by the Ngati Toa chief Te Rauparaha and his warriors in about 1831. Friendly relations returned when Te Rauparaha released Ngai Tahu prisoners and allowed them to return home. The first migrants and their successors left signs of their living: near the Rakaia River mouth, at Taumutu, on Banks Peninsula, around Lyttelton Harbour (Te Whangaraupo), and along the coast well north of Christchurch.

It is against this background that we consider the late nineteenth century establishment and development of Lincoln. The township was planned by James Edward FitzGerald, who held the lease for the Springs Run with his partners, and had the vision to recognise the potential for a town to service the growing rural population. He spoke of his town and the benefits, such as a mill, a store and a public house. All these were realised, but it was left to others to provide them. A year before the first auction FitzGerald sold a quarter acre lot, with right of way, to blacksmith Patrick O'Reilly on what is now Robert Street, an indication that he had faith in his belief that a town was sorely needed to service the district.

Although the town was laid out and the streets named when Chudleigh walked around it in 1862, a hundred years were to pass before it began to change from a small rural village to take on the status of a small country town. However, it did not take the early settlers long to establish the basic infrastructure with busy smithies, an hotel, a school and a church. In this account we will trace the development of the town to about the end of the 19th century and consider the various influences, government, religious and secular, which contributed to it. The streets of the original subdivision are named after FitzGerald's sons, Maurice, Robert, and William; his names, James, Edward, Fitz and Gerald; his friend Lord Lyttelton, chairman of the Canterbury Association; and a reminder of his Irish background, Kildare and Leinster Terraces.

In 1849 Lincoln was selected as the name for a town to be located near the mouth of the Selwyn River by Captain Joseph Thomas, surveyor for the Canterbury Association. It was chosen to honour the Earl of Lincoln, a member of the Association and of its management committee, but it was an inappropriate site situated as it was in extensive swampland and the town was never built. Thirteen years later it was natural that FitzGerald, who was involved with the Association and with the early development of Canterbury Province, should transfer the name to his town.

### Sources and Notes

1. The Press. 20 June 1862. See [Papers Past](#)
2. Diary of E .J. Chudleigh, ed. J.C. Richards 1950
3. Adams, T.W. 1918. [Early Lincoln. The Chronicles of a Pioneer](#). Canterbury Agricultural College Magazine, pp524-529.
4. Ellesmere Guardian. 11 April 1903. See [Papers Past](#)
5. See Natural Resources of Lake Ellesmere (Te Waihora) and its catchment
6. The Natural History of Canterbury 2008, Canterbury University Press

## THE BUYING OF LINCOLN

As agricultural activity moved south from Christchurch FitzGerald realised that there was a need to establish a town to service the growing rural population. To this end he acquired 44 acres, formerly part of the Springs Run, which he subdivided into nine blocks of about twenty sections each. Most were a quarter acre in area, but some, east of Robert and Lyttelton Streets, were either slightly smaller or slightly larger. The sections, all constrained within the four town belts, were offered for sale at the upset price of 12 pounds, but it was hoped that at auction they would sell for more, and that they would sell quickly. Also included in the sub-division was just over one acre reserved for the Church of England, now the site of St Stephen's and the vicarage on opposite corners of Edward Street, and just outside the north east boundary two acres were reserved for the Presbyterian Church.

It is sometimes difficult to determine when a section was first bought because the transaction was not always registered at the time of sale, an omission noted when the original purchaser wanted to sell or required a Certificate of Title. Thus FitzGerald wrote in support of an application for a certificate that he had sold the land under consideration for twelve pounds some twenty years earlier. Sometimes the original buyer could not be traced, and in such cases the land became the responsibility of the Public Trustee to dispose of under the Unclaimed Lands Act. By this process individuals were able to buy sections long after the details of the first transaction had been forgotten. Thus, Bartram and Co. bought three sections in Robert Street, William Hamilton one in North Belt and two in James Street, and John Zimmerman one in Maurice St. In all these cases the first record, usually in the 1870s, states that the original date of sale occurred at some earlier time, and here it is assumed that it occurred in about 1863.

Seventy nine sections were sold during the 1860's at an average price of 14 pounds, and a further fifty two were sold for the first time during the 1870's at an average price of 18 pounds 15 shillings. A few were not sold until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and of these the most unusual was the realisation, in 1964, that the site chosen for the fire station on James Street, believed to be Crown land, had never been sold and was still owned by FitzGerald. A surprise for everyone concerned! The problems of title were solved and the land was eventually taken under the Public Works Act and vested in the name of the Chairman, Councillors and Inhabitants of Ellesmere County.

It has been suggested that the price of sections soared when the Southbridge railway line passed through Lincoln. With the passing of time prices did rise, but in many cases the increase can be attributed to inflation, the vagaries of the market, or in some cases to the addition of a house or a building. Some sections were sold in the first instance for 15 pounds, or even a bit more. These were often the smaller sections fronting the L1 on Leinster or Kildare Terraces, perhaps because the riverside frontages were attractive to buyers.

Robert Mackey, a farmer living on the corner of Ellesmere Road and Lincoln - Tai Tapu Road, bought five sections from FitzGerald in Block IV – situated between Maurice Street and Robert Street – for a total of £40, well below the upset price of 12 pounds for each section. When Mackey died in 1876 his executors sold one section for 26 pounds and the others for 17 pounds 15 shillings each, all at a considerable profit for the estate. In about 1863 FitzGerald sold four sections in Block III – situated between Lyttelton Street and William Street - to James Julian and William Arthur Murray (the man who built Liffey Cottage) for 12 pounds 5 shillings. In 1877 the sections were sold for 14 pounds each and three years later Cornelius Kelliher bought them for 25 pounds. When he quit them in 1920 they were sold for 28 pounds 15 shillings each. On the other hand a section in Block IX was sold in 1877 for 50 pounds, markedly higher than the advertised upset price of 12 pounds.

Sometimes a section sold for an unexpectedly high price. Thus Jemsina Eliza Sluis paid 20 pounds for a section in 1875 which ten years earlier cost 15 pounds. In 1893 she sold it for 150 pounds, suggesting that a house had been built on the section. In 1865 a property in Block III – between William Street and Kildare Terrace - was sold for 150 pounds when a year earlier it had been bought by a carpenter for 15 pounds, again suggesting that a house had been built, and when the Liffey Cottage in Market Square, was sold in 1882 to John Muir, butcher, for 375 pounds, he clearly bought a home for his family and a shop for his business.

Most first buyers had no intention of living in the new township, and at this distance in time it is not always easy to separate the speculator from the settler. However, a study of the prices paid and mortgages taken out provides some clues. Although most sections had been sold within the first twenty years only a few had houses built on them and as far as can be judged from the available records there were only about thirty houses in the village by the end of the century. Most



were to be found on the western side of the L1 River, a trend which extended well into the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Most bought one or two sections, some bought three or four, and there were those who bought many more. Who were they? According to LINZ records they came from all walks of life and included labourers, farmers, tradesmen, business and professional men, the clergy, and sometimes, in that male dominated world, women. Several people bought more than five sections. They included husband and wife Joseph and Jemsina Sluis, James Stark, Cornelius Kelliher and Robert Mackey.

Of these, one of the most active was railway employee Cornelius Kelliher who in 1877 bought eleven sections in Block I – between West Belt and Lyttelton Street – representing nearly half of the six acres in the Block and one section in Block III – located between Lyttelton Street and William Street. He sold these when he retired in 1921, with the exception of two, one in Block I on the corner of West Belt and North Belt (now No. 1 West Belt), and the second in Block III on the corner of Lyttelton Street and North Belt (now No. 4 Lyttelton Street) which he sold in 1881. Cornelius remained active in real estate and in 1906 bought eleven sections (of which more later) in Block IX – between South Belt, James Street, Edward Street and James Street – which were sold by the Public Trustee after he died nineteen years later.

Cornelius Kelliher was born in the County of Tralee, Ireland, of a farming family, came to New Zealand in about 1875, and presumably moved to Lincoln shortly afterwards. He never married, and the late Jack Greaves remembered him living in a sod house on a section in Block I (now No. 121 North Belt). Although he was sometimes described as a labourer, and a farmer, his death certificate states that he was a retired railway employee and his recorded occupation as a farmer suggests that he may have used or rented out his empty sections for grazing. Little is known of his role in village life, but in 1885 he was appointed to the Lincoln Domain Board responsible for the care of the L1 Reserve, now colloquially referred to as the Liffey or Doey. Cornelius died in Sydenham in 1935 in comfortable financial circumstances and left substantial bequests to convents in Christchurch and in Ireland.

In 1878 James Stark, an Addington horse dealer, bought seven sections in Block II – between West Belt and Maurice Street - for 55 pounds, considerably less than the hoped for price of 12

pounds a section. These sections, an area of 2¼ acres, all fronted West Belt. About eighteen months later he made a handsome profit when he sold three to Joseph Henry Sluis for 180 pounds, but the rest remained in his name until his death in 1895. Of these seven sections only two can be assumed to have had a house built on them before the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the cottages, albeit somewhat altered, still stand as No. 29 and No. 31 West Belt.

James Stark, who never settled in Lincoln, was living on a ten acre block in Spreydon when he died in 1895. His estate, administered by the Public Trustee, included property in the Christchurch area, in Lincoln, a farm near Ashburton, as well as considerable cash assets, indicating that he was a wealthy man. His will, housed in the Christchurch office of Archives New Zealand, is written on a scrap of paper in a firm hand, a marked contrast to the weak and spidery signature beneath, suggesting that he dictated the will on his death bed.

Robert Mackey, a farmer living on the corner of Ellesmere Road and the Lincoln-Tai Tapu Road, bought five sections in Block II sometime in the 1860's for 40 pounds. He also bought two sections in Block VII at about the same time. These transactions, never registered, were acknowledged by FitzGerald when Mackey's affairs were being wound up following his death in Christchurch at the age of 43. It did not take long to dispose of his estate for Messrs H. Matson and Co. reported that a large crowd attended a successful auction of his farm and chattels<sup>1</sup>. The farm with its "fair homestead" was sold to William Stoddart for 2921 pounds, much more than the original purchase price of 850 pounds, sixty young cattle sold for seven pounds a head, and the farm implements fetched good prices. Mackey's sections in Block II were sold at about the same time, one to William Stoddart for 26 pounds, and four to a Weedons butcher for a total of 71 pounds. These five sections did not change hands again until the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century at prices similar to those paid to his trustees; clearly none had been built on during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The sections in Block VII were also sold, one in 1877 for 26 pounds and the other in 1878 32 pounds.

The Sluis's were the most active in the buying and selling of Lincoln real estate, but unlike Cornelius Kelliher, James Stark and Robert Mackey, they generally bought sections sold earlier to others by FitzGerald. Most purchases were registered in Jemsina's name, perhaps indicating that it was Jemsina's money which made their activities possible, as it was when they bought the Perthshire Arms hotel. Their buying began in 1873 and ended in 1906 when Joseph sold the last of their purchases in Block IX to Cornelius Kelliher. From 1873 and 1880 they usually paid prices

ranging between 12 pounds 10 shillings and 20 pounds for each section, although for two they paid 130 pounds and 160 pounds respectively, suggesting that the vendor had already built a house on that section. They bought sections in every Block in the subdivision except in Block IV, but most heavily in Blocks VIII and IX, and of these they quit most before the beginning of 1890 although their eleven properties in Block IX were retained until 1906 when they were sold to Cornelius Kelliher.

Joseph and Jemsina Sluis, bought the Perthshire Arms hotel from William Alexander Arklie in 1871 (discussed later), and must have been familiar figures in the village for many years. Besides their interest in real estate they were busy hoteliers who hosted dinner parties following ploughing competitions, fairs, shows and cricket matches as well as providing on site refreshments during these various events. Because facilities for meetings were limited in the early years the hotel also provided space for committees to meet and to discuss their plans. They were married in St. Michael's Church in Christchurch in 1869 and although Joseph is recorded as a farmer in the marriage register, the deed of sale held by LINZ records him as a carrier living in Christchurch. In any event they must have moved to Lincoln in 1871 when they bought the hotel. Joseph was born in Holland and Jemsina was born in England. Jemsina died in 1894 and a year later Joseph moved to Dallington where he remarried. He died in Christchurch in 1935.



*5. The Jennings family pose outside their Maurice Street home*

One of those who owned one or two sections was George Jennings who bought two in Maurice Street and built on one of them. Born at Wrexham, England, in 1838, he arrived at Lyttelton with his wife and four children in 1874; two more children were born to them in New Zealand. They first lived in Sydenham, but by 1878 they had moved to Lincoln where he bought Lot 15, Block IV, fronting Maurice Street (now No. 11) and on which he built his cottage which with additions remained standing, albeit in a derelict state, until its demolition in about 1995. In 1888 George bought his second Maurice Street section for 26 pounds and twenty years later sold it to Jehu Barter for 30 pounds. At these prices it is obvious that it was still an empty section and indeed it was not until the 1950's that a house (now No. 10 Maurice Street), was built on it.

George was a bricklayer by trade and doubtless built many chimneys and fireplaces in Lincoln and the surrounding district during his working life. It is possible that he worked on Ivey Hall at Lincoln Agricultural College, now Lincoln University, the construction of which was completed in 1880 and perhaps on Bartram's hotel built in 1885. Active in village life, he was a long serving member of the Lincoln Masonic Lodge, Vicar's Warden (1897 – 1900) and People's Warden (1904 – 1910) at St. Stephen's, and was a keen supporter of the Lincoln Library which building he helped move from its original position opposite the primary school to its present site in Liffey Domain where it is now known as Pioneer Hall. His wife, Jane, died in Lincoln in 1918 and George died in Christchurch six years later in 1924. Both are buried in the Springston Public Cemetery.

In 1869 a Rangiora surgeon bought two sections fronting Gerald Street (Block II, Lots 2 and 3) for 28 pounds, and thirteen years later sold them for 70 pounds, a good return on his investment. The buyer, Mary Ann Blythen, a widow, promptly sold Lot 3 to the Baptist Church for 40 pounds, but retained Lot 2 which was inherited by her daughter in 1914. Lot 2 was eventually sold in 1925 to Thomas Hewton, garage proprietor, for 100 pounds. In 1882 Mrs Blythen also bought the section on the corner of Gerald Street and West Belt (Lot 1) now McCormick Motors, for which she paid 50 pounds, just over four times the amount paid to FitzGerald in the early 1860's. At this price it is unlikely that a house was included in the sale. The widow's daughter eventually inherited this property which in 1925 she sold to Thomas Hewton for 260 pounds and for this price a house must have been on site, presumably built by Mrs Blythen about the time she bought the section in 1882.

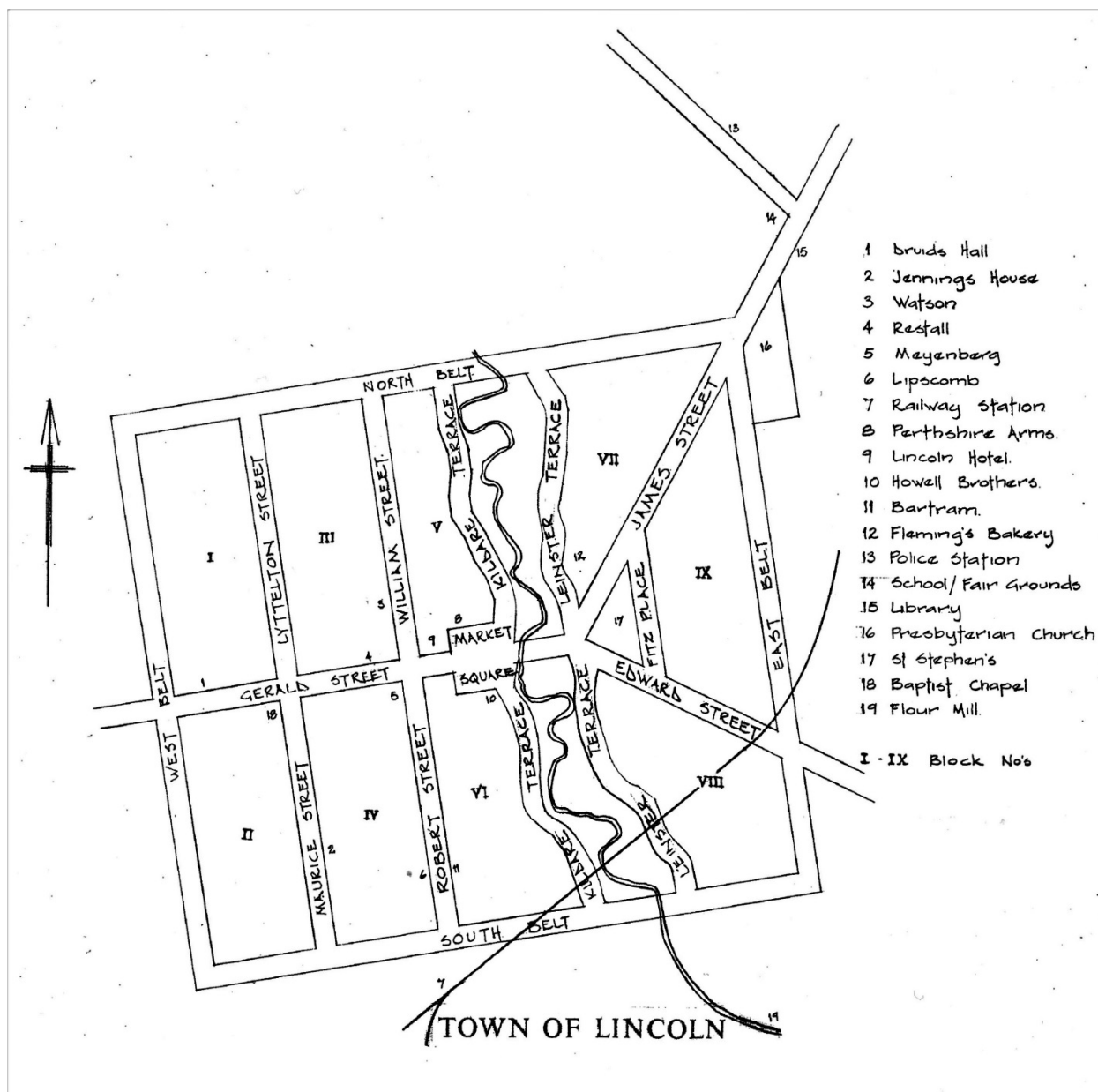
Mary Ann Blythen (née Page) was born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1821, and came to New Zealand about 1876 with her husband George and daughter. She was widowed in the six years between arriving in New Zealand and coming to Lincoln where she lived until shortly before her death in 1914 at the age of 93. Her occupation, given as domestic duties on the 1908 electoral roll, suggests that she either worked in some capacity as a domestic or she may have been solely concerned with maintaining her own home. Her daughter was a teacher, but whether at Lincoln or elsewhere is not known, and for a time was vice-president of the Lincoln Mutual Improvement Society.

There were others who settled in Lincoln during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and these are mentioned in sections relating to agricultural activities, businesses, clubs and societies. However, Lincoln was still a small village at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and although by then most sections had been bought, it does not imply that the village developed at a rapid rate. Indeed, Lincoln grew slowly and it was not until after World War II that any significant expansion began. Even then growth was not particularly fast until the early 21<sup>st</sup> century by which time the original subdivision was filled with housing and new developments, including the retirement complex opposite the primary school, and subdivisions such as Ryelands, The Palms, Heathridge and Liffey Fields were formed. Lincoln therefore retained its village atmosphere for most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and it is only during the last two decades that it has taken on the status of a small town.

It is tempting to think that the coming of the railway boosted the price of land in the village, but the evidence presented suggests otherwise. In some cases prices did rise after the opening of the Southbridge line, in others they did not move much beyond inflation, and in others a marked rise in price probably indicates that a cottage or a house had been built on an empty section.

#### **Sources and Notes**

1. The Weekly Press 7 October 1876



6. Selection of places in text.

Drawn by Wayne Kay based on DRP 21 Land Information New Zealand



## BUTCHER, BAKER AND CANDLESTICK MAKER

When Lincoln sections were advertised in The Press of 20 June 1862 the auctioneers enthused about the location and its advantages. They claimed that there would be good opportunities for a blacksmith, a country inn, a store and for a butcher and a baker. Further, it was intended to build a flour mill on the stream, the L1, around which the subdivision was planned. The Southern Provinces Almanac for 1873 listed a baker and confectioner, a blacksmith, a brewer, a butcher, a contractor, a miller, a shoemaker, storekeepers and a wheelwright working in Lincoln, and the Centennial Book of the Lincoln Primary School records the names and occupations of several tradesmen whose children attended the school from about 1880 to 1892. However, while we may know their names it is difficult to discover details of many of them.



*7. Shopping centre from bridge over L1, c. 1880*

There was a blacksmith in the village from the beginning. Patrick O'Reilly announced in The Press of 11 November 1862 that he had "commenced business as a blacksmith and farrier" in William Street and in addition to shoeing horses he would mend farm implements and machinery and had available a supply of medicines for horses. Although he gave William Street as his address, he appears to have built his home and smithy in Robert Street, (behind Hammer Hardware) which he bought from FitzGerald in October 1861. T.W. Adams, who in 1863 was working on the Pannett farm, now part of the Lincoln University Dairy Farm, remembered<sup>1</sup> that Patrick's sod house and smithy were not far from the future site of the railway station built twelve years later near the junction of Robert Street and South Belt. Patrick soon moved from Lincoln to Weeden [Weedons] and then to Little River<sup>2</sup> where he was employed as a blacksmith at White's timber mill before settling in Akaroa<sup>3</sup> where he died in 1884 at the early age of 44. He was active in Akaroa affairs and at the time of his death was a member of the Akaroa town council. He was an enigmatic character, for according to T.W. Adams Lincoln folk thought he was a Presbyterian despite his obvious Irish background. However, a son was baptised by Father Chervier in Little River, and he was buried in the Roman Catholic cemetery at Akaroa thus clearing up the question of his religious affiliation.



*8. Charles Restall – Lincoln Wheelwright*

The next blacksmith was Keith Forbes Gray who in June 1865 bought a quarter acre section in William Street for 15 pounds<sup>4</sup>. He too did not stay long, and a year later sold to William Keith Watson of Lincoln and George Johnston of Muddy Creek, near Doyleston, for 140 pounds<sup>5</sup>, suggesting that Gray had erected substantial buildings, perhaps a home and a smithy, before selling. The Watson and Johnston partnership was short-lived and two years later Watson was sole owner of the business as well as the section next door (now No.12 and No.14 William Street). At first the business flourished and he opened a smithy in Springston<sup>6</sup> where he employed two men in addition to five at Lincoln. The Lincoln business was worked with three fires and a fitting shop, 20 feet x 13 feet, containing a lathe with a 10 inch centre and a 15-foot bed. He was a well regarded smith whose ploughs and other implements won prizes at local shows and competed<sup>7</sup> with some success in ploughing matches. A Watson plough located beside the Lincoln library in Gerald Street stands as a memorial to him and those early settlers who ploughed and worked the land.

Unfortunately the business failed and in 1872 receivers sold it to blacksmith Charles McPherson of Cashel Street, Christchurch, for 100 pounds<sup>8</sup>. The McPhersons came from Scotland in 1869, and lived in Prebbleton and Christchurch before moving to Lincoln. Unlike his predecessors Charles was in for the long haul and remained in Lincoln for nearly forty years, eventually selling to Charles Thomas Restall, of whom more later, and John Herbert Restall on 24 February 1909. The McPhersons were active in village life. Charles, who would have been known to many farmers, was an early supporter of the library, a member of the school committee and involved for many years with the annual sports day. Mrs McPherson was a faithful member of the Presbyterian church and at her memorial service the officiating minister commented that she was one of the oldest and most loved residents of Lincoln village<sup>9</sup>.

The rapid growth of the district in the 1860s meant that there was a need for some form of lodging for the travelling public and so in January 1863 James Rowell applied for a conditional licence for a house at the northwest corner of Springs Road and Boundary Road (RS 2927). Although the application was unsuccessful he appears to have provided some form of accommodation, for a time at least, because William Rayers advertised that his conveyance, operating between Lincoln and Christchurch, left Rowell's accommodation house every Saturday at 8 am and began the return trip from Christchurch at 2 pm. It is not known for how long the accommodation house lasted, but when Richard Waterlow was declared bankrupt<sup>10</sup> in 1865 he



was described as a "Pork Butcher; then of the Springs Track Accommodation House, in the Lincoln district....Publican, and now of the Springs Track aforesaid, out of business, a debtor not in custody" suggesting that it may have survived for at least a few years.

Demand for a public house in Lincoln continued to grow and Andrew Melville Arklie's application for a wine and beer licence in December 1867 was supported by such well known Lincoln individuals as David Galletly, William Geddes, Henry Moffat, and William Tod. The text of his letter of application<sup>11</sup> reads:

*To William Sefton Moorhouse Esquire, Superintendent of the Province of Canterbury, and the members of the Executive Council.*

*I Andrew Melville Arklie now residing at Lincoln in the Province aforesaid hereby apply for a Conditional Wine and Beer Licence for the house and appurtenances thereunto belonging situate at Lincoln aforesaid and to be known as "The Perthshire Arms" now occupied by me and I hereby certify and declare that no licence has been refused by the magistrates for such a house nor has any application been made for any description of licence for such house.*

The Commissioner of Police was of the opinion that since the house stood on a busy road and the nearest licensed house was four miles away a licence was justified. However, he added that it was impossible adequately to supervise premises so far from town and that the house could not provide accommodation for travellers halting for the night; a wine and beer licence allowed that wine and beer could only be served to persons taking a meal, there had to be one room set aside for females, and there could be no tap-room or bar. Nevertheless, in February 1868, despite any reservations the police may have had, the licence was granted, doubtless much to the satisfaction of its supporters! It is interesting to note that in that month Edward Burns, who at the time owned the section behind the hotel and fronting William Street, had unsuccessfully applied for a wine and beer licence in Lincoln. The Perthshire Arms must have been an imposing building for according to one newspaper report<sup>12</sup> it "stood out in conspicuous relief as viewed from the show grounds in all the glory of its first coat of paint - a brilliant red".

Within two years Arklie transferred the licence to Dutchman Joseph Henry Sluis, who with financial support from his wife Jemsina, bought the property for 400 pounds. Soon afterwards Joseph was granted a licence for a country hotel, and together the Sluis's made the hotel a popular

social centre which not only catered for thirsty patrons but was also the venue of many public meetings and dinner parties as noted in the preceding chapter.

Over the next few years the couple acquired all the land fronting the northern side of Market Square, except the section on the corner of Gerald Street and William Street, and the sections behind which in 1882, along with the Perthshire Arms, they sold to carpenter David William Bartram. At the same time Bartram also bought the adjacent section on the corner of Gerald and William Streets (Lot 1 Block V) where he built a substantial new hotel in brick, lately known as The Famous Grouse Hotel until it was damaged beyond repair by the earthquake of 4 September 2010. According to newspaper reports David Bartram was the builder, a Mr Glanville was the architect, and we may speculate that bricklayer George Jennings who lived in Maurice Street, just a stone's throw away, laid some of the bricks.

The new hotel opened on 1 October 1884, offering guests "splendid accommodation" including private family suites, the best wines, and especially for invalids, comfort, privacy, and quiet. All this, within 12 miles of Christchurch, was to be found in a healthy and beautiful locality and only two minutes' walk from the railway station! It had a large cellar (20 feet x 16 feet and 7 feet high) and on the ground floor there was a commercial room, and a dining room, (both 18 feet x 16 feet), a billiard room (24 feet x 18 feet), a bar, kitchen, and rooms for the proprietor and his family. Upstairs there were 18 comfortable guest rooms. This building must have been luxurious compared to the Perthshire Arms and was described by the Lyttelton Times<sup>13</sup> as "a capital specimen of a country hotel".

To finance his venture Mr. Bartram took out mortgages with Christchurch brewer S. Manning and Company Ltd who for the next ten years was to be his sole supplier of colonial ale, beer, porter and stout. However, he settled his debt with Mannings within two years by passing title to them, who then sold to Pamela Kate Hill, whose husband F.L.K. Hill was a publican in Christchurch. The terms of sale were unchanged. When the Hills moved to Hawera in 1899 they leased the property to Elizabeth Campbell, a widow of Lincoln who soon afterwards married Thomas Yarr, and together they ran the hotel into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Sadly, the wooden Perthshire Arms building was burnt to the ground after it had been converted into the Lincoln Town Hall by Mr. Hill. Of this more later.

Andrew Melville Arklie, born in Perthshire, Scotland in 1833, migrated to Canterbury in 1862 with his wife Betsy. He probably worked as a farm labourer in the first few years after his arrival – his occupation on the ship's passenger list - but nothing much is known of him apart from the fact that he was the first publican in Lincoln, that he was once cautioned for selling beer and wine on a Sunday, was involved in two concerts in 1870, and that his name appears in electoral rolls and directories as being a Lincoln resident until 1881. However, it is possible that he moved to Christchurch after selling the hotel, for an advertisement in *The Press*<sup>14</sup> states that A. Arklie had opened a confectionery business in Christchurch at which tea and coffee was available at any time; the shop was two doors from *The Press* office.

David William Bartram was born in Shropshire in 1834. There he married Elizabeth Turner a few years before migrating to Christchurch in 1865 where he worked as a carpenter. About twelve years later he moved to Lincoln when he bought two sections in Robert Street (Lots 15 and 17 and now No's 17 and 19), and in 1881 contracted to build the new Presbyterian church. In that year he bought two sections across the street from his earlier Robert Street purchases where the Bartram family lived for many years afterwards. It was at about this time that he bought the Perthshire Arms which he replaced with the new hotel building on its corner section as noted above.

David and Elizabeth had two sons, Arthur Charles, born 2 March 1860 and David William Harry, born 6 May 1864, who established the firm Bartram and Company as coal and wood merchants based on Robert Street, and presumably on the land bought by their father. Later the firm expanded their activities as grain merchants, and ironmongers and a 1902 calendar hangs in the kitchen of Liffey Cottage advertising the firm as an agent for an insurance business. David William Harry was a man of great energy who not only managed the company, but was also active in most aspects of Lincoln life. When he and his wife retired to Christchurch in 1924 they were honoured at a farewell function where it was said that his contribution to the local community had earned him the title of mayor of Lincoln! Besides his business activities he had been People's Warden at St. Stephen's for many years, a long serving member of the Druids Lodge, an active member of the school committee, including terms as chairman and deputy chairman, and a member of the committee elected to move the library to its present location where it stands as the Pioneer Hall. Arthur Charles was born in England in February 1860 and was four years older than his brother who was born in Christchurch in 1864. Judged from the available records, Arthur was not as active



in local affairs as his brother although he was a member of the local school committee for some time and for some years was secretary of the Druids Star of Anglesea Lodge in Lincoln and a member of its sister lodge in Springston.

For many years the only room suitable for public gatherings in Lincoln was the schoolroom. Although it was used for dances and concerts it was barely adequate for the purpose and so in 1876<sup>15</sup> residents decided to build a town hall with capital raised from shareholders (shares to cost one pound each) who elected a committee to canvass the district for support. A month later the committee reported that applications for 200 shares had been received and on that basis submitted a rough estimate for a building 50 feet x 24 feet. The committee was then asked to select a suitable site, draw up rules and regulations for the enterprise, and to report back when necessary. Sadly, their efforts came to nothing and it was not until 1886 that Mr. Hill, husband of the proprietor of the hotel, bought the old Perthshire Arms building and converted it into a town hall. David William Harry Bartram carried out the necessary alterations and a Mr. W. Lawrence of Christchurch was the painter and decorator. Lincoln could boast of a fine town hall, 60 feet long by 30 feet wide, with all necessary facilities, including a large stage beneath which were the dressing rooms.

The new hall was opened in grand style<sup>16</sup> on 23 December 1886 with a fundraising concert and ball organised by the Sports Committee to supplement the prize money for the forthcoming New Year's Day sports. Imagine the excitement and anticipation as the evening began, with opening remarks from the chairman of the sports committee, the Revd. A.P. O'Callaghan. The concert and ball were a great success and the sports committee undoubtedly profited from the event. The building was well used until one blustery night in 1889 it was destroyed by a spectacular fire which razed the building to the ground in about 30 minutes<sup>17</sup>. The villagers could not save the hall, but they saved the horses in the nearby stables and they fought for the new hotel next door and Howell's store on the other side of the square with the only tools they had – buckets of water. The heat of the fire broke many windows in the hotel and sparks carried by the wind threatened the store, but the bucket brigade saved the day! The cause of the fire remained a mystery; the township had to wait another seven years before the Druids built on Gerald Street and a suitable hall was again available. That building is now incorporated in the Community Centre presently

opposite the Challenge! Service Station and soon to be the site of a new library and service centre for Selwyn District Council.

Although there were tradesmen in the village from the earliest days it is often difficult to uncover details of them. The first shopkeeper was Samuel Fleming who advertised himself as baker, confectioner and storekeeper. On 24 January 1871 he bought a section (Lot 1 Block VII), fronting Leinster Terrace and James St.(now 13 Liffey Place and 3 James St.) for 14 pounds, now subdivided into 15 Liffey Place and 3 James Street next door to the fire station. Five years later he sold his business to John Howard and Henry Dartnall, Springston storekeepers, for 280 pounds<sup>18</sup>. The huge capital gain cannot be attributed solely to the opening of the railway a year earlier, but implies major improvements such as a bake house, a shop, and doubtless a cottage. We know that he sold bread and other baking, but we can only surmise that his store sold a variety of goods needed by a pioneer community. From July 1871 he took on the role of postmaster and it is probable that locals collected their mail from his store. The Flemings' involvement in village life is sketchy, but Samuel was a member of the New Year sports committee, Mrs. Fleming helped at Presbyterian Church tea meetings, and son W. Matthew Fleming helped organise the New Year sports meeting for 1879. It seems that the Flemings lived in Lincoln for a few years after the sale of their bakery and store. When the Southbridge railway line opened in 1875 the Post Office was moved to the railway station on South Belt at the end of Robert Street, and J. Frame was appointed to the dual positions of stationmaster and postmaster.



*9. Lincoln Store – Howell Brothers c1900*

Others who followed included Christchurch storekeepers Joseph and Henry Clarke, father and son who in August 1876 bought two sections, on which the medical centre now stands, for 40 pounds<sup>19</sup> Two years later they borrowed 450 pounds, using the sections as security, presumably to build a store and to begin business in Lincoln. Unfortunately they failed to meet their mortgage payments and in 1879 the property was bought by local farmer Richard Wright who rented it to Ethelbert Thomas Howell and his brother Herbert Butler Howell, general storekeepers who had moved from Prebbleton. Three years later they leased it and then in April 1894 bought the property to become Lincoln's principal storekeepers, dealing in groceries, hardware, seeds and drapery, and acting as agents for the Union Insurance company. When Herbert died in 1904, aged 53, Ethelbert retired leaving his two sons, Harold and Charles, to run the business until they sold it in September 1914. Subsequently Charles worked for the former Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and Harold was employed as a cabinet maker.

The Howells probably lived in the accommodation built onto the river side of the store when they moved to Lincoln, but in 1894 they bought ½ an acre (Lots 4 and 5, Block IV) formerly

belonging to Henry Meyenberg on the corner of Gerald Street and Robert Street where Ethelbert and his family lived. The house was a well known landmark and was only demolished about 1962 to make way for the present business premises extending from Hammer Hardware to Felix the Cafe. In 1877 Ethelbert married Elizabeth Dale Waghorn who arrived on the *Randolph* in 1850 as an infant born on board ship shortly after sailing for Lyttelton. She died in November 1937, aged 87, eleven years after her husband; both are buried at St Mary's at Springston.

Ethelbert and Herbert both contributed to the life of the community. Ethelbert's role was acknowledged by the vicar who wrote in The Church Magazine, January 1927 as follows: *Looking back over the old records I find that for many years Mr Howell was a Vestryman in Lincoln and took an active part in Lincoln church life as well as in the business and social life of the township and district. At times, during the absence of the vicar, he discharged the duties of a Lay Reader by reading the Office at burials. The registers give evidence of this in his own handwriting.*

Henry Meyenberg, born Heinrich Carl Meyenberg in Bottsmeersdorf, a village about 160 km north east of Leipzig in Germany, came to New Zealand with his older brother Wilhelm on the *Captain Cook* in 1863 at the age of 23. He was a well respected resident who although a wheelwright by training, worked in various capacities from repairman and builder to coach builder. It is not known when he came to Lincoln, but he married Martha Longman at St. Michael's in Christchurch in 1870. Mary Tod of Lincoln was one of the witnesses at the wedding suggesting a local connection and the year for which we have the first record of his working in the township. The following year he became a New Zealand citizen and in 1881 he and his family moved to farm near Stratford in Taranaki where he died in 1929 at the ripe old age of 91. Henry and Martha had three children, two daughters and a son, all born in Lincoln.

Besides working as a jobbing carpenter in the district, Henry's major works included building a refreshment room for the Lincoln Township Fair Company, constructing and installing sluice gates for the Springs Road Board to control flooding in the Halswell River, and building a wagon, capable of carrying a six ton load, for Henry Moffat, the Lincoln miller. It carried grain and flour to Mr. Moffat's Christchurch store and on occasion, children to school picnics! However, his most enduring work was the construction, in 1873, of the Lincoln library in James Street on land opposite the primary school. The library committee and residents were well pleased with Mr. Meyenberg's

work, not without reason, for the well preserved building still stands as the Pioneer Hall, in the centre of the township beside the L1 River facing Market Square.

In 1873 Meyenberg bought the two quarter acre sections (now including Hammer Hardware to Felix the Café on Gerald Street) later owned by the Howell brothers, from his friend Henry Moffat for 50 pounds. At about the same time he also bought a section (now No's 17a and 17b) in William Street, for 12 pounds.10 shillings. He built his seven roomed home and workshop on the Gerald Street property and a four roomed cottage on the other. When he left Lincoln in 1881 his properties and his stock in trade were sold by auction<sup>20</sup>. His premises on Gerald Street were apparently destroyed by fire at some time, but it is not known exactly when this happened.

Henry was active in local affairs. He was a long serving member of the Lincoln school committee, active in St Stephen's parish affairs, an officer of the Druids Lodge and was involved with the New Year's sports day. He was interested in improving the river reserve (Liffey Reserve) and in 1879 was elected one of five trustees responsible to the Selwyn County Council for maintaining its fences, paths and trees until he left the district for Taranaki.

George Lipscomb was a builder living in Lincoln in 1878 when he bought three quarter acre sections (Lots 14, 16, 18) on the western side of Robert Street. He advertised<sup>21</sup> that as a "builder, general carpenter and cabinetmaker" he made "all sorts of gates and hurdles to order", stocked picture frames, doors and window sashes as well as "coal, timber, firewood, and every description of building material" and "a large assortment of London Photographic Views". He must have been a skilled tradesman for although he did not complete a contract on time the school committee did not demand a penalty payment because of the quality of his work. <sup>22</sup> Mark Finch, saddler, owned a section on Maurice Street (now No.5) from 1880 until his death thirteen years later. He probably lived there, but since he apparently leased the corner section next door this is uncertain. There is a record that his premises were destroyed by fire although the date is not known.

Charles Thomas Restall arrived in Lincoln in about 1883 about two years after the Meyenbergs left for Taranaki. He bought two sections fronting Gerald Street (Lots 3 and 4 Block III) on which he built his workshop and house. The house still stands as Hillyers Café, and the workshop, now long gone, stood on the section between the café and the chemist's shop, the empty space a mute

reminder of a once busy work place. Charles was the local undertaker for many years and advertised this role in the Anglican Church magazine.

William Geddes was a signatory to the letter supporting Andrew Arklie's application for a wine and beer licence. Although a farmer, he was obviously willing to try new ventures, for in September 1872 he opened the Lincoln Brewery which seemed to have a bright future. According to the Press<sup>23</sup> it was "situated a few hundred yards from the township, on Mr Geddes' own land" a perceived advantage over competitors because there was no rent to pay and there was a "capital supply of beautiful water from two wells" which further enhanced the enterprise. The brewery, 53 feet x 22 feet, was built with sod walls, the better to maintain an even temperature, and was to be improved by the addition of a malt house and a kiln within the year. The brewer, a partner in the business, was a Mr Stevenson who had worked for brewers in Christchurch, and "brought considerable experience to the business". A cask of ale entered in the local show was said to be "clear, and possessed a good body, but wanted age to complete it" and although there were no competitors the entry was awarded first prize!

The brewery did not realise the bright future predicted for it and after a few years ceased to operate and all trace of it disappeared. Although it was said to have been built on Geddes's land its location is something of a mystery. However, land may have come under his control when he married Hannah Broome, a widow whose late husband's farm was close to the present golf course and cemetery on Boundary Road. This land was eventually taken over by David Broome, Hannah's son, by which time William and Hannah had apparently left the district and have not been traced.

In July 1861 FitzGerald wrote to Henry Selfe Selfe, a friend in England, that he hoped to have a mill ready by 1863 to handle the rapidly increasing grain harvest. He asked for prices of English manufactured machinery<sup>24</sup> in order to compare local costs and enclosed details of his plans to build on the L1 for which he owned the water rights. FitzGerald left the district before he could build his mill and it was not until 1867 that the dream became reality when Henry Moffat announced in the Lyttelton Times that his flour mill was ready for business and he hoped by "manufacturing a good article and strict attention to business, to merit a share of public patronage."

The mill, built just outside village limits on land bought from William Tod on the banks of the L1 River (the Liffey), played an important role in the local and provincial economy. A dam was built



across the L1 and the mill pond which formed behind it soon became a local attraction as well as a source of frustration for the Road Board and the Lincoln Domain Board because of poor maintenance and frequent pollution. The product was good and the growing demand for his services ensured that Mr. Moffat's business was a successful one. Within a few years the mill was employing four men and producing well over 600 tons of flour and the Lyttelton Times<sup>25</sup> reported that *Mr Moffat, who commenced business seven years ago on a very small scale, having then but a small building and driving only one pair of stones, has now one of the largest country mills in Canterbury, driving three pairs of stones, silk dresser, and other machinery, with storage room for about 20,000 bushels of grain. Mr Moffat has recently started on the road to town a team comprising a pair of fine three year old draught colts, fitted out with harness of colonial manufacture. The wagon is capable of carrying six tons, and reflects great credit upon Mr H. Meyenberg, wheelwright of Lincoln.*

With the Lincoln mill operating successfully Henry looked for a new challenge and so in 1878 decided to build a mill at Wakanui, near Ashburton, which opened for business in September 1879. Sadly, this venture failed in the harsh economic times of the 1880s, and in May 1881, unable to meet his commitments, he was declared bankrupt and his Lincoln and Wakanui mills and other holdings were advertised for sale by public auction in May, 1881.

The Lincoln mill was advertised<sup>26</sup> as a lucrative business and let for 350 pounds a year along with four houses and twelve acres of land. Also for auction was a farm of 181 acres which "for quality of soil cannot be surpassed" and the Wakanui mill and adjoining farm of 96 acres. The Lincoln mill and houses were sold to Samuel Early of Broadfield, but the other properties were not. Mr. Moffat returned to Lincoln in August 1892, and if he operated the mill, he must have leased it or managed it, for by 1896 Samuel Early was having his own financial troubles. It was taken over by the Bank of New South Wales and about a year later, on 30 April 1897, George John Maber became the owner and when he died in November 1908 it passed to his widow Agnes who sold it nearly twenty years later to Charles Munro Smith, son of pioneer G.A. Smith.

There has been some confusion regarding Mr. Maber's death. According to popular belief he disappeared one night when he went for a walk. It was thought that he drowned in the mill pond, his body carried over the dam into the L1 and never found. However, his death notice in the Lyttelton Times<sup>27</sup> reads *Maber – On November 6<sup>th</sup>, at his residence, Lincoln, George J. Maber, of*

*the Lincoln Flour mill, dearly beloved husband of Agnes Maber, aged 57 years (suddenly).* His death certificate records the coroner's verdict as death by heart failure and his headstone can be found in the Lincoln cemetery where he and his wife are buried. Another version<sup>28</sup> has it that a Mr Woods who was installing new machinery at the mill went for a walk one night and did not return. Although it was thought that he may have fallen into the mill pond and drowned, his body was not recovered. A search of press accounts, electoral rolls, and of coroners' reports and inquests has failed to confirm the truth, or otherwise, of this story, and for the present it is best regarded as "not proven".

The mill operated for another twelve years, but despite the installation of new machinery could not compete with electrically powered mills and finally closed in 1920 when some of the equipment was transferred by Thomas Hewton, the last manager of the mill, to his garage on Gerald St, and now Challenge! Lincoln. The mill, the mill house, and the dam have long since disappeared, although some timbering related to the mill is still visible behind the Ryelands subdivision. Much of Mr. Moffat's land is now developed for housing and the Selwyn District Council purchased the Lincoln Country Club buildings erected on part of it when changing social habits forced the club to close its building.

Like most of his contemporaries Mr. Moffat played his part in the village and surrounding district although business interests took much of his time. He was responsible for draining a large area of swampland east of the mill, and supported the drive to have the Southbridge railway line run from Hornby through Prebbleton, Lincoln and Springston, rather than from Rolleston as was originally planned. To this end he opened his mill to an official party investigating the merits of the new route to demonstrate just how important wheat was to the district. He supported Mr. Arklie's application for a wine and beer licence, at one time was auditor for the school committee, supported the local library, and for a short period was People's Warden for the Anglican parish before St Stephen's was built.

Although the Southern Provinces Almanac records a shoemaker and a butcher among the tradesmen at the end of the first decade we have little or no information about either. In 1869 the butcher, Joseph Haydon, was granted a licence to operate a slaughterhouse near the corner of the Lincoln - Tai Tapu Road and Ellesmere Road by the Provincial Government, but nothing else is known of this. Of the 19<sup>th</sup> century butchers we know most about John Muir, an Australian, who

worked from his cottage in Market Square. In 1882 John Muir bought the cottage for 375 pounds from William Arthur Murray, then clerk and surveyor of Springs Road Board, who had purchased the section in 1875 for 20 pounds and built his cottage on it. Mr. Muir not only lived in the cottage with his wife and large family (six of his nine children were born there), but he also converted one of the two front rooms into a butcher's shop. He removed the window, enlarged the gap and constructed a counter from which he sold his meat to the locals who had to avoid the carcasses hanging from the veranda. He apparently slaughtered his animals at yards near the junction of Ellesmere Road and the Lincoln - Tai Tapu Road which may have been those built by Mr. Haydon thirteen years earlier, and those indicated on the map in Penney's book "Lake Ellesmere to Te Pirita". Mrs. Muir worked hard in her small home without any of the facilities we enjoy today. Her early death has sometimes been attributed to the shock of a major earthquake which shook Canterbury in 1888.



*10. John Muir the Lincoln butcher, outside his shop, now preserved and relocated as Liffey Cottage*

John Wolfe was another well known Lincoln resident in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A painter by trade he was born near Rugby in 1842, married in 1863, and migrated to New Zealand in 1875. Although he worked as a painter, plumber and glazier he gradually acquired land and eventually was more properly regarded as a farmer. He was a member of the Springs Road Board for about eight years and chairman for a number of those years. He was involved with the Lincoln Domain Board for some time and was an active member of the Lincoln Baptist Church. Mr Wolfe died in December 1916 and like his wife who died five years earlier, he is buried in the Lincoln cemetery.

There is nothing known of the bootmaker and to date there seems to be little hope that information will come to hand. Another apparently short lived business was that of a public dispensary. In 1876<sup>29</sup> an advertisement stated that a public dispensary was open in Lincoln, that Mr W.H. Brodrick, who lived on the premises, was able to offer advice, provide medicines, and to visit. The location of these premises remains a mystery.

Besides the activities recorded above, the Lincoln Fair Company, discussed elsewhere, must rank as one of the important commercial activities in early Lincoln. The company was founded by local farmers whose aim was to provide an outlet where stock could be bought and sold without recourse to the services of an auctioneer. The first sale was held in June 1869 and was so successful that it seemed that the company could look forward to a bright future, but with the coming of the railway, steadily improving roads, and competition from neighbouring fairs, support fell away until sales were abandoned some time in 1876. At about the same time the Lincoln Farmers' Club organised the annual agricultural and pastoral shows which were held in the fair company's grounds. These too, were successful for a time, but as with the fairs, support flagged, and the show survived the fairs by about three years. Although these ventures failed after only a few years, their purpose of supporting and encouraging local farmers was met and they certainly played an important role in the development of the district.

By the 1880s there were well established businesses in Lincoln which supported and serviced village residents and the surrounding farming population. At the same time roads were being improved, the railway passed through Lincoln, educational facilities were better, churches were being built and the infrastructure for the village was developing.



11. W. Bartram and Co. Calendar poster for 1902 – “An awkward lie”

Listed below are the businesses and the names of those engaged in them between 1862 and 1900. As far as was possible the lists are at about ten year intervals although both 1862 and 1863 are included. For the most part the location of the business premises is unknown, and little or nothing is known of some of the businessmen.

### **LINCOLN BUSINESS DIRECTORY 1862 - 1900**

#### **1862: The Press, 11 November**

**Blacksmith:** Patrick O'Reilly, Robert Street

#### **1863: The Press, 24 July; Post Office History**

**Accommodation House:** James Rowell (northwest corner Springs Road and Boundary Road) manager, Richard Waterlow

**Blacksmith:** Patrick O'Reilly.

**Carrier:** William Rayers (passengers, parcels, mail).

#### **1873: Southern Provinces Almanac**

**Baker and Confectioner:** S. Fleming.

**Blacksmith:** C. McPherson.

**Brewer:** Geddes and Co.

**Butcher:** J. Haydon.

**Contractor:** C. Burns.

**Hotel: Perthshire Arms** J.H. Sluis (proprietor).

**Miller:** H. Moffat.

**Poundkeeper:** H.C. Jacobson (also schoolmaster).

**Shoemaker:** T. Pratten.

**Storekeepers:** S. Fleming; J.H. Sluis.

**Wheelwright:** H. Meyenberg.

#### **1883 - 1884: Wise's Directory**

**Baker:** Joe Cox.

**Blacksmith:** Charles McPherson.



**Bricklayer:** William G. Jennings.

**Builder:** David William Bartram; Samuel Early (Broadfield RS3650).

**Butcher:** Samuel Carter; John Judge.

**Brewer:** Geddes and Co.

**Carpenter:** William Burley; Stephen Chapman; Will Scarlet.

**Carter:** Daniel Easterbrook.

**Grocer:** Charles Ross.

**Hotelkeeper:** Joseph H. Sluis.

**Miller:** William Rosewarne.

**Painter:** John Wolfe.

**Saddler:** Mark Finch.

**Shoemaker:** George Johnstone.

**Wheelwright:** Charles Restall.

**1900: Wise's New Zealand Directory**

**Baker and Store:** F.G. Norton.

**Blacksmith:** John McKenzie; Charles McPherson.

**Bricklayer:** William G. Jennings.

**Butcher:** Robert Millen.

**Carpenter:** Andrew Brown.

**Carter:** Daniel Easterbrook.

**Coach Builder:** C.T. Restall.

**Coach Proprietor:** Thomas Yarr.

**Coal and Timber Merchants:** Bartram and Co.

**Gardener:** Owen Lynch (Possibly Lincoln College gardener).

**Hotel:** Elizabeth Campbell.

**Miller:** G.J. Maber, Lincoln Flour Mills.

**Painter:** John Wolfe.

**Saddler:** John Raven; W.H. Travis.

**Storekeepers:** Howell Bros. (Herbert and Ethelbert).

**Veterinary Surgeon:** Charles Brake; Thomas G. Rule.

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## THE AGRICULTURAL INTEREST



*12. The harvest - a rural scene, 1932.*

In a rural environment it is inevitable that pastoral or agricultural concerns are a matter of high priority and FitzGerald the run holder was always anxious to defend the pastoral and agricultural interest as he saw it, although he was no farmer. As the district became more closely settled there was increasing pressure on the government to develop an infrastructure capable of servicing the rural population and its needs. This was easier said than done, for despite the best efforts of the Provincial Government and the road boards their slender resources meant that roads were often formed years after they were surveyed. An important issue was that of getting produce into Christchurch or to the port of Lyttelton and the opening of the Southbridge railway line helped provide solutions the rural community so badly needed.

Agricultural development in the 1860's was boosted by the discovery of gold in Westland and Otago and by the Maori land wars in the North Island. The large runs were being broken up, and pastoral activity began to give way to arable farming which served to meet the demands of the expanding population and to transform the tussock and scrub covered plains into a landscape dominated by English pasture grasses. The changes began slowly, but by 1885 some 250,000 acres



of Canterbury land, including much in the Springs and Lincoln districts, was settled and in some form of production. The more far-sighted farmers in the district knew that it was necessary to raise the overall skills and organisation of the farming community in order to progress and the solutions they applied to these problems, with varying success, will be discussed in the following pages.



### *13. The Lincoln Creamery corner of Tancred's and Ellesmere Roads*

During the 1860's the return on grain, and indeed of produce generally, was so low that the viability of the farming community was at risk and this in turn threatened the economic growth of the province since potential purchasers of "waste land" were unwilling to risk capital in uneconomic ventures. The problem attracted the attention of the Provincial Superintendent, William Sefton Moorhouse, who attended a meeting held at Lincoln in July 1867 to consider the establishment of a company for the export of wheat and other produce. The meeting was not well supported so another was held later in the month at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Shands Track, when the topic was thoroughly discussed by a representative gathering of farmers and again attended by the Superintendent<sup>1</sup>.

Speaking to the meeting he stressed that low prices would affect land sales and so reduce available funds for necessary public works in the province. He urged that farmers support the development of one strong export company which could do better than several competing companies who, with limited funds, could easily spoil the market with their mistakes. The company would need able men to manage and operate it without the benefit of state support, as some had suggested, which could only be met from taxation. A committee was formed to liaise with a group said to be investigating the establishment of such a company at Kaiapoi, but the outcome was disappointing. Kaiapoi farmers had stumped the province seeking support, but found that although the idea was a popular one few farmers were prepared to invest in it. The scheme came to nothing, as did a similar attempt at Selwyn Forks. Two years later the Revd. Bluett, President of the Ellesmere Farmers' Club, arranged a shipment of members' wheat to England for which they received a good price of five shillings and six pence a bushel. At about the same time the manager of the Bank of New Zealand, J.L. Coster, bought wheat at the local price of two shillings and six pence a bushel, exported it to England, and there realised another one shilling and six pence a bushel.<sup>2</sup> These were encouraging trends, but farmers were also worried that duties imposed on imported produce by the Australian colonies would affect their markets and unsuccessfully petitioned the government to erect similar barriers against imports from Australia. It was time to organise!





*14. McLaren Clayton Mill owned by Hugh Bennett*

### **The Lincoln Fair Company**

The first farmers sold their stock to dealers as best they could, but as the district became more closely settled the need for formal sales became obvious. The first such sale in the district took place in January 1867<sup>3</sup> when Messrs Ollivier and Co. held an auction sale of stock at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Shands Track. Regular auction sales followed, but there was dissatisfaction that the fees demanded by the auctioneers were too high, especially because of the hard financial times that prevailed. In order to avoid paying these local farmers decided to organise fairs at which auction sales were disallowed. The use of the Wheatsheaf Inn yards was promised and the first fair was held there on 20 October 1868<sup>4</sup>. Quarterly sales followed, but their attraction was short lived and although the anniversary sale was advertised for 19 October 1869, there is no record that it was ever held.

While the fairs at the Wheatsheaf were losing their appeal there was a growing demand for similar sales at Lincoln, leading to the formation of the Lincoln Fair Company.<sup>5</sup> The company was

established in March 1869 with a capital of 150 pounds, raised easily enough at the founding meeting when Messrs Knight, Wright, Goodwin, Lawry, and Glyde were appointed directors. Knight, a member of the Provincial Council, who was elected chairman, made it quite clear that although the intention was to hold periodic fairs in Lincoln township from which auctioneers were to be excluded, the aim was not to undermine those held at the Wheatsheaf.

The company office, sheep and cattle yards, were built on three acres of land adjacent to the school house, which owners Messrs Wright and Murray let for a nominal rental. The first sale was held in June 1869 at which charges per entry were: horses 1 shilling each; cattle 9 pence a head; sheep 9 pence per score; pigs 6 pence each; sow and litter 1 shilling. There was no charge for the sale of implements. According to the *Lyttelton Times*<sup>6</sup> the yards “were well planned, very substantial” and their location and facilities were so good that the company was bound to be well supported.

There were more than 100 entries of cattle, despite the fact that some of the larger dealers had been scouring the neighbourhood for fat stock a few days previously, and had bought some lots that otherwise would have been sent to the fair. Beef sold readily at 30 shillings per 100 pound weight, and one or two prime lots realised as much as 35 shillings. Store steers and heifers fetched from two to eight pounds, and good milking cows were sought, but there was little interest in sheep. Fat pigs were sold at about three pence per pound weight.

Refreshments were supplied by Mr Sluis of the Perthshire Arms. For the first two years beer and sandwiches were served from an open bar, exposing patrons to the vagaries of the weather. This unsatisfactory situation changed when a refreshment room, built by Henry Meyenberg, was opened in September 1871<sup>7</sup> with “a capital lunch provided at a cost of one shilling per head by Mr Sluis...”

At first sales were held quarterly, but early support encouraged directors to hold the sales on a monthly basis. Unfortunately the early promise faltered, and in an attempt to increase custom, auction sales were permitted from September 1872 when Matson and Company announced that they would be available every fair day - the first Tuesday of the month - to conduct sales and to advise on current market values. However, not everyone wanted an auctioneer nor were they all willing to pay the small charge levied by the company, and so some sold outside the yards. This

was seen as a major disadvantage to the company and those who did so were warned that they were not wanted and so forced to use other facilities at higher cost.

Patronage did not improve and in 1876 fairs were abandoned<sup>8</sup>. However, the Farmer's Club (see later) continued to hold its annual show for another four years, and auction sales were held from time to time until about 1883. Fees derived from these events and the rent paid by the Road Board for the use of the fair ground as a public pound were the only source of income when fairs were abandoned. Business was at a standstill and since there was no reason to continue, especially since the original objectives of the company had been realised, it was decided to sell the property by tender and to cease operations. This was the final act of the Lincoln Fair Company which played an important role in the economic development of Lincoln and the surrounding district in the early days of settlement.

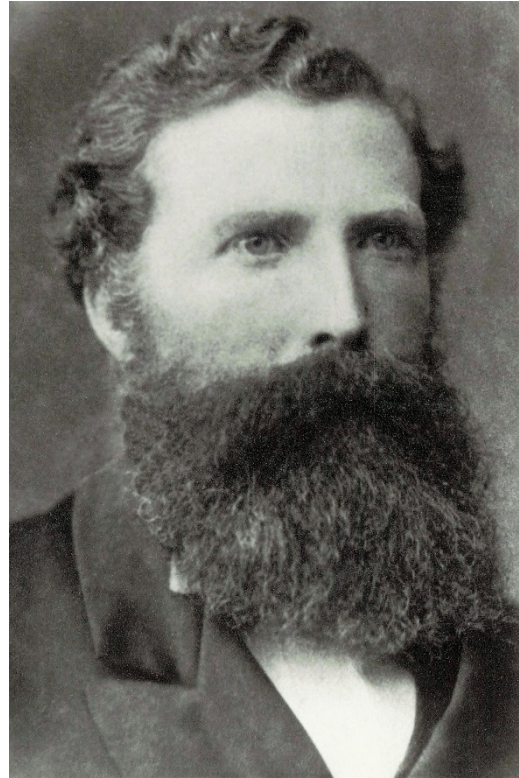
### **The Lincoln Farmers' Club**

From the beginning of settlement efforts were made to improve the lot of those who worked on the land and in 1851 a letter to the Lyttelton Times suggested that an agricultural society could work towards this end. Although a society was formed it soon collapsed, as did the Canterbury Farmers' Club which held its first meeting in 1858. Despite this unpromising start interest continued to grow and in the next decade several clubs, including the Ellesmere Farmers' Club, were established. This last survives today as the Ellesmere Agricultural and Pastoral Association.

It was clear to local farmers that standards needed to improve and that in order to protect their interests collective action was necessary. In 1870 the matter was raised at a harvest dinner in Prebbleton and about a year later "Colonial", writing in the Lyttelton Times<sup>9</sup> noted that *the success which has attended the Ellesmere Farmers' Club should encourage farmers in other districts to make a move in the same direction; and if they did so, I see no reason why their efforts should not be attended with the same success as those of the Ellesmere farmers have been*. The ideas expressed in the letter were widely held and it was decided to call a public meeting to consider forming a farmers' club in the Lincoln and Springs districts. This initiative, supported by A.C. Knight, A.P. O'Callaghan, J.N. Toss will, J. Gammack and F. Marchant, leaders of local farming communities, resulted in the formation of the Lincoln Farmers' Club.<sup>10</sup>

A provisional committee was appointed to formulate rules and to suggest the best place or places for club meetings.

The first general meeting of the club was held at Lincoln in September 1871. Rules drawn up by an interim committee were adopted and of these Rule No. 17 enshrined the objectives of the club<sup>11</sup>. These were *To promote discussion on subjects connected with agriculture; the encouragement of agriculture in general; breeding and general management of stock; the encouragement of local industries; construction of farm buildings; the manufacture and improvement of implements; planting of trees; draining, and general management of land; the advancement of farming interests by combined political action, but with the proviso that no club funds were to be devoted to political purposes*. This last, the subject of considerable debate, was eventually accepted and was certainly used when it came to lobbying provincial or central government in



15. The Revd. A.P. O'Callaghan, farmer and politician. Courtesy Alexander Turnbull Library – Ref. 1158.

the interests of the farming community. At this meeting a large representative committee was elected as follows: President: A.C. Knight; Vice-president: A.P. O'Callaghan; Treasurer and Secretary: J. Stanley Bruce (an engineer then working for the Springs Road Board); Committee: S. Bailey, William Craighead, Andrew Dawson, George Dalton, David Dun, James Gammack, William Goodwin, E.H. Hudson, Joseph Haydon, Walter Lawry, Francis Lawrey, John Murray, W.H. Peryman, George Smith, William Tod, J.N. Tosswill, William Watson, Richard Wright and Henry White. Mr Jacobson, the Lincoln school master, was appointed auditor for the year.

At first the club pursued its objectives with enthusiasm and included lectures by members and others, who spoke on topics designed to improve farming standards in the district. The first, by President A.C. Knight, dealt with "The breed and management of sheep"<sup>12</sup> followed by A.P. O'Callaghan who asked whether thick or thin sowing was best adapted to Canterbury conditions<sup>13</sup>.

James Gammack discussed the influence trees “exercise on the climate of a country”, and his views, the subject of an editorial<sup>14</sup> in the Lyttelton Times, were well received. The editorial concluded that although his *remarks are homely...they are none the less valuable and timely, and we trust the Lincoln and other farmers’ clubs in the province will enjoy the privilege of listening to many a similar collection of truisms, drawn from the storehouse of practical wisdom.*

Later in the year J.N. Tosswill<sup>15</sup> spoke on the system of farming best adapted to Canterbury conditions and which would do least harm to soil fertility for the best return. In his opinion the strategy to follow was to alternate pasture with crops. Under this regime there could be no serious objection to growing wheat, and then oats and barley, over a period of two years before laying down pasture for three years. Alternatively, turnips could be grown for one year followed by two years in grass and red clover. He was convinced that a more balanced use of the land in place of repeated cropping would give farmers the satisfaction of knowing that they had done their duty “as stewards and trustees of the farmlands of this young country for the benefit of posterity”, a comment familiar to us all!

W.H. Peryman<sup>16</sup> wanted to see an agricultural training school established in Canterbury so as to raise standards, to combat the numerous examples of slovenly farming that characterised the industry, and to make New Zealand one of the best agricultural countries in the world. He noted that there were several agricultural schools in Great Britain embracing a wide range of subjects and he hoped that a similar institution would become part of the education system in New Zealand. Mr. Peryman was adding local support to a concept put forward in 1853 by J.E. FitzGerald, first Superintendent of Canterbury Province, in his inaugural address to the Provincial Council and which became reality as the School of Agriculture in 1877.

A veterinary surgeon, John Hill, spoke on “Parturient apoplexy and milk fever in cows”. This paper<sup>17</sup> was well received and in moving a vote of thanks A. P. O’Callaghan “thought it was remarkably kind of a professional man to give such valuable information”, a statement which reveals something of the standing of professional people in a rural community at that time. This paper, and another on farm accounting by E.W. Trent were the only two presented in 1873 and indeed appear to have been the last delivered at meetings of the Lincoln Farmers’ Club.

The Farmers' Club also informed members by initiating discussion on various topics usually triggered by letters or by articles published in agricultural magazines. Thus, samples of wheat sent by S.D. Glyde from South Australia in 1872 led to the decision to maintain a cabinet displaying different varieties of grain for the benefit of members, and a letter from E.W. Trent of the Templeton Chicory Works recommending subsoil ploughing as a means of increasing productivity was read and provoked considerable discussion. In keeping with its objective of encouraging good agricultural practice the club decided to take out subscriptions to various magazines such as the *American Agriculturist*, and the accumulation of journals and newspapers led the club to rent a room from the Fair Company at five pounds a year. It was thought that the room would be a real asset to the club since it would help round out a man's character by study and according to *The Weekly Press*<sup>18</sup> it was expected that draughts "and other innocent amusements may also be encouraged. Surely such a method of spending the evenings was preferable to euchre in a bar room". The club also actively supported the establishment of a corn exchange and in 1871 petitioned the Provincial Council to provide funds for its establishment.<sup>19</sup>

The petition<sup>20</sup>, forwarded through Colonel Renzie de Brett MPC, of Courtenay, noted the difficulty facing farmers in the sale of their grain "through the want of a Public Mart" and they prayed "that the establishment of an Exchange will receive the earnest consideration of your Honourable Council". It was favourably received and the Provincial Council voted 500 pounds towards the cost of an exchange with the proviso that this sum be matched by farmers. A.C. Knight MPC, president of the Lincoln Farmers' Club, attended a meeting with the Christchurch City Council<sup>21</sup> to consider the matter, but early enthusiasm waned, opposition increased, and a correspondent wrote in amazement that a Corn Exchange Company should wish to accept charitable aid from the council to the tune of 500 pounds! In the event the proposal collapsed, partly because the ambitious working committee hoped to include facilities for both opera and theatre in the proposed building.

Eventually, in January 1878, a Corn Exchange and Farmers' Club was formed with the active support of H. Matson and Company. Matsons provided club rooms and other facilities expected to benefit the smaller farmer who could rely on a reasonable price for his produce rather than face competing merchants offering different prices. The Exchange battled on for about ten years, always with the support of Matsons, but with indifferent support from farmers; in October 1891 it



was decided to disband unless the committee could attract 100 subscribers, which they apparently failed to do. Local farmers who supported the Exchange were J. Gammack, J.J. Herrick, A.C. Knight, A.P. O'Callaghan, and H.W. Peryman; Gammack and Peryman were also long serving members of the Board of Directors.

The Lincoln Farmers' Club also played its part in persuading the government to re-route the Southbridge railway line from Racecourse (Hornby) through Prebbleton, Lincoln, and Springston rather than through Rolleston, a topic discussed in chapter 7. Its other significant contribution to the local economy was its initiative in developing the Lincoln Agricultural and Pastoral show.

### **The Lincoln A. & P. Show**

In July 1872 the Farmers' Club decided to hold a show and to this end it sought a grant from funds allocated to agricultural societies by the Provincial Government<sup>22</sup>. The show, to be held at the Lincoln Fair Company's grounds in November, met with general approval not least because such events allowed farm labourers, many of whom would eventually become farmers, to see the best stock available in the district. The show was an outstanding success and surprised those who had doubted that the district could support it just two years after the launch of the Ellesmere show at Leeston. According to the Lyttelton Times<sup>23</sup> there was no reason to doubt that faults, such as the arrangement of the stock pens and the manner of their numbering, would be corrected before the next show. From the point of view of the public it was unfortunate that there was little to amuse them except for one wheel of fortune which, of course, was undoubtedly profitable for the proprietor. Despite these shortcomings the facilities generally were good; the pens were substantial, there was a secretary's office, and a refreshment bar was available for the convenience of the patrons.

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## LINCOLN AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL EXHIBITION.

When the Ellesmere exhibition of stock and produce was first established, the few who deemed it in advance of the times were far outnumbered by those who predicted success, but no one ventured to think that the country between Christchurch and the Rakai, on which it was mainly dependent for support, would in the short space of two years, give birth to another institution of a similar character. Such is however the case, and what is more, the younger venture promises to be little if any less successful than its contemporary. The Lincoln and Springs district has frequently been termed "the garden of the province," and though settlers in other parts may take exception to such a distinction being conferred, there can be no doubt that in the matter of agricultural cultivation and its results, Lincoln and the Springs must, to say the least, be ranked amongst the leading districts in the province, whilst the exhibition yesterday proved that in the important matter of stock, more than average merit also appertains to it. Shortly stated, the exhibition as a whole was a very creditable one indeed, showing that the promoters of it had good justification for their spirited conduct, and giving promise of good things in time to come. It is true that in the general arrangements there was not that degree of completeness which could be desired, but when it is remembered that "On greatest actions greatest dangers feed," perfection can not in reason be expected at the first attempt. Experience will no doubt have shown the direction in which improvement is required, and judging from the zeal displayed in other agricultural matters by the promoters of the exhibition, it may be fairly assumed that next year will see many of the faults existing yesterday entirely removed.

*16. Lincoln Agricultural and Pastoral Exhibition. Lyttelton Times. 6 November 1872. Courtesy of Papers Past.*

The Times also commented that the trip from Christchurch to Lincoln was a pleasant one, as it still is today, and that the quality of the wheat seen on the way reinforced the view that the district was one of the most fertile in Canterbury. Further, there were many new homes, doubtless similar to Liffey Cottage, and while more trees were desirable it was clear that planting had not been neglected. As far as Lincoln village itself was concerned, the dominant building, as seen from the fair ground, was the Perthshire Arms, an hotel of some twenty rooms, "in all the glory of its first coat of paint - a brilliant red". The show ground was enclosed by a gorse fence, easy to breach in places, so that about 200 people were able to gain entry without paying the shilling charged at the gate. The attendance was a large one and despite the modest fee, gate takings amounted to 22 pounds 5 shillings and 6 pence which together with those who entered through the hedge, represented about 800 visitors. For a sparsely populated district this number suggests that there was considerable interest in the show.

There were classes for sheep, cattle, horses, pigs, implements, dairy produce and local manufactures, as well as a class for special entries. The number of entries for each class was not great, only occasionally exceeding five, and often fewer than that number. The only entries in the implement section were a single plough, a double furrow plough, and harrows, made either by Blyth or McPherson, blacksmiths from Prebbleton and Lincoln respectively. There was only one entry in the local manufactures category, that of 18 gallons of beer by the recently established Lincoln brewery of W. Geddes and Company, which was awarded first prize although it was not of a particularly high standard.

That evening, club members and invited dignitaries, including the Revd. W.J.G. Bluett (MHR and first president of the Ellesmere Farmers' Club) and the Mayor of Christchurch, sat down to dinner at the Perthshire Arms. It was a convivial evening. Toasts were proposed, the prize list was read out, and complimentary remarks were made about the organisers of the show and of farmers' clubs in general. In his response to the visitors' toast the Revd. Bluett spoke of the need for the establishment of one good university and a school of agriculture, supporting the views put forward earlier by FitzGerald and Peryman. Mr. Knight emphasised the value of the Farmers' Club to the district which, amongst other matters, had successfully lobbied for the re-routing of the Southbridge railway line through Prebbleton and Lincoln.

It was decided to make the show an annual event and no time was lost in preparing for the second which was to be held on 4 November 1873. As in the first show, entries were restricted to residents of the Lincoln, Springs, Little River and Port Victoria Road Districts and stock had to have been held in one or other of these districts for at least two months immediately prior to the show. Entries had to be registered with the secretary, or at the post office, two weeks before the show, but upon payment of a double fee an entry could be made as late as one week before the show. Although implements had to be in place by 9 am, and stock no later than 9.30 am, the gates were not opened to the public until 11 am for an admission fee of one shilling. On this occasion there were more side shows, Joseph Sluis of the Perthshire Arms provided a much appreciated refreshment booth, and Herr Bunz entertained with his band<sup>24</sup>.

However, there were rarely more than three entries for any category, and there was surprise that the dairy section, as at the first show, was poorly represented. This, however, was not unique to Lincoln, for dairy exhibits were under-represented at most shows held in Canterbury that year. On the other hand the implement section was particularly good, and the entries, representing some of the best in Canterbury, had the added advantage of being made locally. The stock shown, especially the sheep, were of good quality although there were no prizes awarded to breeding ewes older than 18 months because of their poor condition.

At the dinner which followed<sup>25</sup> there were the usual toasts, speeches and songs. All spoke highly of the Lincoln Farmers' Club although some, like H. Matson, exaggerated when he declared that the show was better than any in New Zealand except for the Christchurch show. Sir John Cracroft Wilson and J.N. Toss will both responded to the toast, "The Health of the Agricultural and Pastoral Interest". When Sir John stated that labouring men taking up farming could be ruined because of limited capital and that it was better for them to work for wages until they had the means to begin farming, his audience responded with cheers. J.N. Toss will made the interesting comment that the land on which Lincoln was built was once part of The Springs run which formerly fed about 100 cattle, but now was much more profitable. He believed that the size of large land holdings should be reduced, the sooner the better, in order more easily to provide essential services such as schools and churches.

The third show, held in November 1874, followed the pattern of the first two, and lessons learned from these led to a more efficient organisation and any visitor with a catalogue in hand

“could walk through the grounds and find easily the various exhibits” of stock, produce and implements<sup>26</sup>. The admission fee was fixed at two shillings and six pence for a 10 am opening and those arriving after twelve o’clock were to be admitted for one shilling; auction sales began at 2 pm. The success of the show was doubtless helped by the general prosperity of the country at that time and another contributing factor was the central position it occupied in relation to Tai Tapu, Springston, Prebbleton and Broadfield.

The show of 1875 was organised under the new name of the Lincoln Farmers’ Club and Pastoral Association, a change made to cater for those who supported the show, but who did not want to join the club. This was a significant change because it signalled a change of emphasis in the club’s interests. The show was the first of the season and since the Southbridge railway line was now open an increase in patronage was expected and sixty new cattle pens were built to accommodate the expected increase in the number of entries. It was also decided to lease the Fair Company’s ground for a term of ten years at a yearly rental of five pounds and if this fell through the club was to look for a suitable site, preferably close to the railway station. The Fair Company agreed to the lease and to simplify matters decided to buy the land. The show committee could erect new yards as was felt necessary, but was to be responsible for any damage and had to restore the grounds to their original condition within seven days of a show. Sadly, expectations were not met, and from this time on the show struggled to attract the support it needed. The fact that committees made little effort to co-ordinate the timing of the shows throughout the region often compounded the problem. Thus the Star<sup>27</sup> reported that in that month four shows were held within the space of eight days and in one instance two shows opened on the same day!

There was an obvious need to co-ordinate show days to prevent any clash of dates and to spread the events more evenly. Accordingly, it was suggested that the secretaries of Agricultural and Pastoral Associations should meet to make the necessary arrangements, but this suggestion was not taken up and after some confusion it was reluctantly decided to hold the next Lincoln show in October 1877, despite the chance that a clash with other shows was possible.

It was well organised and the exhibits again were reported to be of a generally high standard although The Press<sup>28</sup> was scathing in its comment on the bacon and ham section which reflected no credit on the district. One exhibit in particular was especially bad and it was suggested that the bacon came from a pig which was in the country before the arrival of Captain Cook. Patrons

enjoyed a variety of amusements including a panorama of the Russo-Turkish war and as usual the police had little to do except enjoy the occasion by “flirting with the female portion of the rural population”. Despite a general optimism there were misgivings when the show of 1878 attracted only a few entries, as was the case also for the Ellesmere show, and it was decided to discuss amalgamation with the Ellesmere Agricultural and Pastoral Association, a view supported by the New Zealand Country Journal 1 January 1879. In November 1878<sup>29</sup> the Ellesmere Association discussed the matter following an approach from Lincoln and resolved to raise the matter of amalgamation with members after both organisations had met to formulate a basis for union. A Lincoln delegation of three was unable to attend the proposed meeting and so the matter lapsed. At their AGM<sup>30</sup> in March 1879 the Ellesmere Association resolved that “the Ellesmere exhibition for the year 1879, be held, as heretofore, on the Leeston show ground, and that as the show is open to all comers, the special attention of the Lincoln Association be invited to seek open competition”. There appeared to have been no desire to amalgamate and this was obvious when one Ellesmere member commented, with some truth, that Ellesmere interests were not necessarily identical with those of their Lincoln neighbours. There were no further efforts by the Lincoln Association to pursue the matter regarding co-operation or amalgamation with Ellesmere.

There are several reasons for the end of this era of activity in Lincoln. First, the opening of the railway and the continued improvement of roads encouraged local farmers to focus on Christchurch as the logical centre for sales and shows. The hope that the show would flourish because of the railway was misplaced and in fact resulted in the opposite outcome. Second, Lincoln Agricultural College was already established and farmers probably saw this as the future source of information on farming practice as suggested by Mr Peryman only a few years earlier. Third, by 1877 the Provincial system had been dismantled and some functions of the Road Boards had been taken over by the recently established Selwyn County Council. All these changes doubtless had their impact on the district and must have encouraged a wider outlook than that engendered by the previous system of administration.





*17. H. E. Peryman's threshing mill*

### **Ploughing Competitions**

Ploughing matches were a feature of English rural life in the mid 19th century, and the *Lyttelton Times*<sup>31</sup> commented that they were sometimes organised to help a fellow ploughman who was unable to cope with his work. In these events competitors were expected to finish their allocated work, a rule that was never broken, so that work continued until the last furrow was turned. This may have been the tradition brought to the colony by the early English settlers, but here the purpose of ploughing competitions was to maintain or to raise standards, to test and to encourage the use of new implements, and to provide an opportunity for the rural community to socialise.

The first ploughing match to take place in Canterbury was on Boag's farm near Fendalltown (Fendalton) in 1854 and other matches followed, including one near Lake Ellesmere in 1859, one at Woodend in 1861, and one at Templeton in 1865. The first match<sup>32</sup> to be held in the Lincoln and

Springs districts was at Prebbleton on land belonging to Messrs Griffith & Co in August 1865. It was a beautiful day and drew a large crowd to watch and to comment on the 28 teams competing. Competition was fierce and the standards apparently were so high that the judges took four hours to reach their decision, a tribute to the competitors. It was obvious that there was plenty of local talent in a district which only a few years previously was mostly wild and desolate country.

At first the matches were well supported. Entries were never less than 20 and on three occasions more than 30 teams competed. Unfortunately enthusiasm waned, numbers dropped, and in 1876 only 16 teams were entered, leading to the suggestion that matches should lapse for a year or two in the hope that this would revive interest. Earlier this lack of interest concerned William Tod who believed that unless younger men came forward district ploughing matches would collapse through want of support.<sup>33</sup> There is nothing new under the sun! Entries were usually only open to those living in the Lincoln and Springs Road Districts and since this was thought to be one of the reasons for the lack of interest the working committee for the 1877 match opened competition to all comers, but to no avail, for only one outside entry was received. Local ploughmen apparently were so skilled that few outsiders were willing to compete against them! In any event there was no further competition until 1881 when a match, open to all comers, was held on Henry Pannett's farm on Days Road. Thirty one teams competed, but in the following years numbers again dwindled until in 1888 only ten teams were entered for a match held at the School of Agriculture. The lack of interest, from ploughmen and spectators, led to the abandonment of ploughing matches in the district for about 20 years, until the formation of the Lincoln Ploughing Association in 1910. The Lyttelton Times considered that matches were abandoned because of changes in farming practice<sup>34</sup>. Farms were larger, more land was being developed, agricultural machinery was much improved, the opening up of the railways encouraged more rapid means of transport, and there was not enough time to spend on the niceties of ploughing. The Times article contended that there had *developed a more speculative spirit among the majority of farmers, and they are too intent upon making their fortunes to spend time and money in making up ploughing matches, especially as the benefits to be derived from these...is of a problematical nature.*

The Press (27 July 1866) reported that a match held at Prebbleton had been organised by the Prebbleton Farmers' Association. This may have been so, but judged by subsequent reports it seems that most, if not all, 19<sup>th</sup> century matches in the Lincoln and Springs districts were organised

at public meetings where large committees (sometimes as many as 70) were elected, the members subscribing towards the cost of the contest generously enough to allow for substantial prizes, sometimes as much as eight pounds for the winners of the competition classes. Occasionally there were prizes donated for the best groomed horse, the best kept harness, and the best matched teams amongst others, and controversially, a whip for the worst ploughman, dropped after the first two years. From the general committee a working committee was elected to take responsibility for the match; after the match the committees disbanded until the next event.

For the first few years matches were held at Prebbleton, often on land belonging to E. Prebble, and close to the hotel. It was flat and dry and the soil was said to be of good quality which would show a good cutting plough off to advantage. However, competitors were not always so fortunate, and the quality of the land in other places sometimes tested their skill to the limit. Thus Mr Broadbent's land on Shands Track was very uneven and the mould had been destroyed in patches by grubs, but two paddocks used at Ladbrooks were worse still. The organisers were slated for choosing paddocks which were lumpy, "cross ploughed", and certainly the worst and most ill-conditioned grounds in the district for competitive ploughing. Competitions were held at various localities besides those at Prebbleton including the Pannetts' farm on Days Road, the Murrays' and Tods' at Lincoln, the School of Agriculture, and at Henry White's farm just off Springs Track. In these locations the quality of the chosen fields varied considerably from heavy clay loam to light and sandy soil, but they always offered a challenge to the competing ploughmen. This was especially so for the match of August 1888<sup>35</sup> at the School of Agriculture when due to extremely wet weather the ground was like a quagmire which made fine work difficult and unpleasant for both competitors and spectators alike.

Match rules were not especially controversial and mostly dealt with the manner in which the ploughing had to be conducted and seem to have applied to most matches considered here. The number of classes in any competition, the fact that teams could only be entered if their owners lived within the bounds of the Lincoln and Springs Road districts for a good number of years, and the requirement that judges could not enter the area until ploughing was finished at 3 pm drew most comment, but were generally resolved in a satisfactory manner.

The Lincoln Ploughing Association still flourishes and the reader is referred to Forrest Woods' published history of that organisation.



## THE ANNUAL PLOUGHING MATCH AT LINCOLN.

"The sluggard will not plough by reason of the cold, therefore he shall beg in harvest and have nothing."—"Proverbs of Solomon."

The annual ploughing match was held at Lincoln yesterday in anything but agreeable weather, and the pouring rain militated very greatly against both the attendance and the entries. It is a moot question whether the very palpable falling off in the interest taken by ploughmen in ploughing matches is to be regretted or not, but there is no question that the abatement of interest has taken place not only here, but in the Old Country. At Home, the time was when a ploughing match, organised by a local Club, would call out anywhere between fifty and a hundred ploughs, and the cream of the workmen—farmers, farmers' sons, and farm servants, and even the village carpenters and blacksmiths—would "yoke up" and enter for the match. Sometimes a neighbour from distress in his family, or from sickness on his own account, would fall behind with his work, and a ploughing match, or "love day," or "love darg," would be instituted, not so much for the competition in ploughing as for the help to the neighbour, and one of the chief rules of such a competition was that every entrant had to finish the piece of work allotted to him. This rule was never broken, and no matter how badly a competitor, under the circumstances, was beaten, he always gamely held to the stils of his old swing plough and urged on his grey mare "Meg" until his last furrow was turned, and he laid his "finish" by the side of his younger or cleverer neighbour. These days are long past. They were a nice outing for the men, no doubt, and kindly masters were always willing to allow their men the day's grace asked for, either for ploughing match proper or for "darg." But with the advent of high class scientific farming, and the introduction of double and treble-furrow ploughs, and gang ploughs, and the more recent innovation of the "digging" or "pulverising" plough, coming as near as need be to the work of the spade, the neat, tidy, uniform "bar-of-soap" style of furrow is no longer a desideratum of the farm. It is to be feared that very soon the time will arrive when the whole secret of cultivation will be found to lie in the plough, and the man or boy will be of but little skilled account in the matter altogether.

The Lincoln ploughing match is an old institution. In our young Colony matters of ten years ago are matters of history, and as the writer puts these lines upon the paper, his memory calls up the face of a fellow journalist now departed—the late Mr John Hebden—whose very soul was bound up in such contests as that of yesterday, and were his shade to have risen up and looked upon the meagre field of teams that came to time, and the equally meagre attendance, the iron would have entered his soul, and the great heart of him would have felt that Ichabod ought to be written upon the foreheads of the ploughmen in the Lincoln district. Still, a crumb was left of the old leaven, and although the rain fell heavily, and the ground of the paddock Mr Ivey, of the Agricultural College, set apart for the contest was soaking wet, a fair field rolled up for the competition. In the double-furrow classes there were three divisions. The first of these was the "Champion," in which the first prize was £5, but only one man dared to face Mr John Hay, the Ploughing Instructor of the Lincoln Agricultural College. His contestant was Mr Alex. Smart, who, running his own team and a Duncan plough, did work that compared very well indeed with the Champion. Mr Hay, running a College team, also used a Duncan plough.

## The School of Agriculture



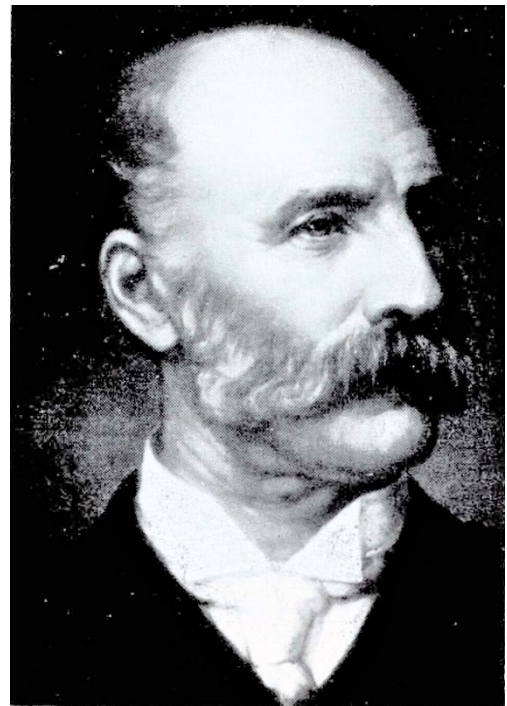
*19. The School of Agriculture at Lincoln. Courtesy of Lincoln University.*

In his inaugural address to the Provincial Council in 1853 James Edward FitzGerald, first Superintendent of the Province of Canterbury, spoke of the importance of education. He emphasised the value of a sound training in the practical and theoretical aspects of agricultural practice in order for the province to establish and maintain a sound economy. Although this was seen as a necessary requirement by many settlers, including members of the Lincoln Farmers' Club, it was another twenty years before that dream became a reality. In 1873 the Council set aside about 100,000 acres of land in the back country as a means of providing income for a proposed School of Agriculture to be administered by the Board of Canterbury University College. Although the council thought it better to place the School and its endowments under a separate administration, this came to nothing when it became clear that provincial government was to be abolished in favour of a national system. The endowed lands needed to be securely controlled by Canterbury interests and to this end an act of parliament was passed ensuring that all education endowments were in the hands of Canterbury University College.

It was decided that the School of Agriculture would be established at Lincoln – the railway passing through the village was an advantage. This decision must have delighted the district's

farmers who as members of the Lincoln Farmers' Club supported the notion that a college teaching all aspects of farming was essential for the development of a strong agricultural industry. Land for a farm and essential buildings was purchased and the position of Director who was to develop the institution was widely advertised. In the end two applicants in Victoria, Australia, were short listed and S.D. Glyde, former clerk and surveyor of the Lincoln and Springs Road Boards, was asked to interview them. One of the applicants was W.E. Ivey and on Mr. Glyde's recommendation he was appointed to the position.

Mr Ivey was born in Tasmania, educated in England where he received training in agriculture, and afterwards moved to New Zealand where he took up farming in the North Island. This venture, cut short by the land wars, forced his return to Australia where he took a senior position with the Victorian Department of Agriculture. His task at Lincoln must have been a daunting one. There was a curriculum to develop, an experimental farm to organize and buildings for the accommodation and teaching of students to be planned. The school finally became a reality in 1880 when the first students, twenty in all, enrolled to study for the Diploma in Agriculture. It was a small beginning, but one which would have had an immediate impact upon Lincoln.



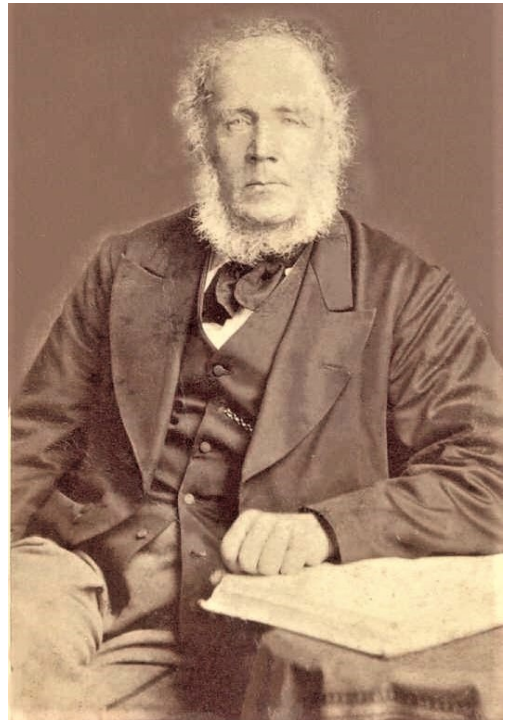
*20. Portrait of W. E. Ivey. First Director of the School of Agriculture at Lincoln. Courtesy of Lincoln University.*

The land for the farm and school buildings was bought from owners such as Henry Pannett, Richard Wright and the Revd. A.P. O'Callaghan who in one way or another were well known in the village and beyond; the University dairy farm on Ellesmere Junction Road was originally owned by Thomas A. Pannett who contributed much to church life in the village. Students too, would have been seen on the farm and in the village, at church or at the railway station, and some villagers



may have worked on the farm or around the school itself. It is suggested that George Jennings, a brick layer living in Maurice Street, may have been employed when the school buildings were erected, and C. McPherson, the school's blacksmith for twenty years from 1885, was probably the Lincoln blacksmith whose smithy was located in William Street during that time.

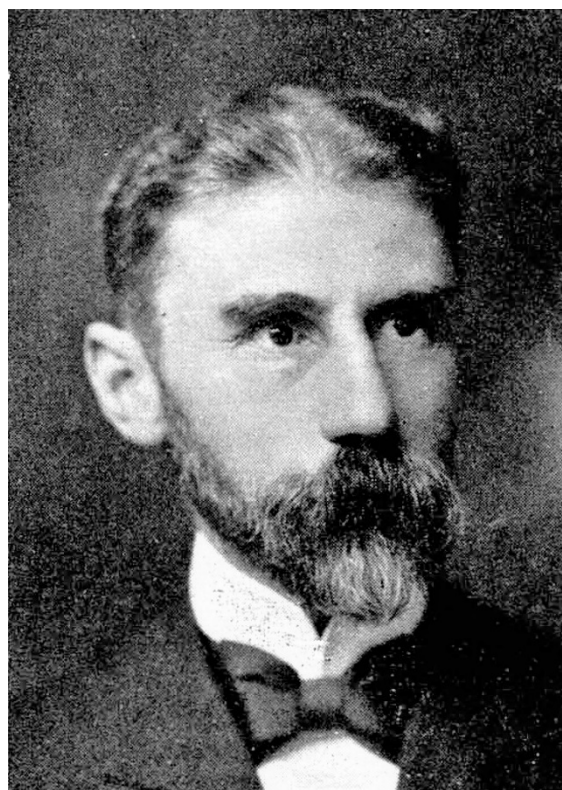
The academic staff also contributed to village life. Mr. Ivey<sup>36</sup>, the Director, regularly attended St. Stephen's church<sup>37</sup>, was active in the St. John's Ambulance organisation when it was established in Christchurch in 1885, and was secretary of the Lincoln branch when it was formed the following year. He participated in the activities



20. *Thomas A. Pannett*

of the rural community and on occasion allowed the Lincoln Ploughing Association to use a farm paddock for their matches. He collapsed and died in April 1892 whilst running to catch the coach. His unexpected death shocked people throughout New Zealand, and a measure of the regard felt for him locally is found in a newspaper report<sup>38</sup> of a meeting held in the Lincoln library to discuss an appropriate way to remember him. The meeting was chaired by George Gray who lectured in chemistry at the College. Subscribers to a memorial included locals such as Dr. Cooke and the vicar, the Revd. J.F. Teakle, as well as others from further afield, including W. Rolleston, the last Superintendent of the Province of Canterbury. His life and work are commemorated by a painting<sup>39</sup>, commissioned posthumously, and by Ivey Hall on the University campus.

George Gray was a lecturer who was very much connected to life in the village. He came to New Zealand in 1873 to work at Canterbury University College where he lectured in chemistry until he transferred, ten years later, to the School of Agriculture where he remained until his retirement in 1915<sup>40</sup>. Besides his work as a lecturer he involved himself in problems related to soil and water as they affected the agricultural industry, and helped dairy companies to monitor standards by analysing samples of milk for them. In the course of this busy life he served as Acting Director<sup>41</sup> on several occasions. Like Mr. Ivey he was a staunch churchman and served St. Stephen's parish for many years in various roles as church warden, lay reader and member of the vestry. In 1909 he bought a property on the corner of Leinster Terrace and Edward Street, next door to the present vicarage and lived there until his death in 1934. His daughter Daisy lived in the village all her life and for many years was organist at St. Stephen's.



*21. Portrait of George Gray. First chemist of the School of Agriculture at Lincoln. Courtesy of Lincoln University.*

By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the School of Agriculture's role in the field of agriculture was widely acknowledged, but beside this, the school in its formative years had established a place in the local community. This has been an ongoing process as staff came to work and live in Lincoln and to contribute in so many ways in the development of Lincoln Township.

#### **Sources and Notes.**

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8. The Press. 1 March 1876. See [Papers Past](#).
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35. The two books by I.D. Blair, [Life and Work at Canterbury Agricultural College](#) 1956, and [The Seed They Sowed](#) 1978 have been the principal sources for this section.
36. Star 15 December 1888. See [Papers Past](#). Reports a parish meeting at which Mr. Ivey was presented with an ink stand in appreciation of his services to the church community.
37. Ibid 5 October 1882. See [Papers Past](#).
38. Ibid 3 October 1893. See [Papers Past](#).
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## DEVELOPING THE INFRASTRUCTURE



*22. Springs Road Board transport.*

Although provincial government had been operating for ten years before Lincoln was established, demands for services from Canterbury settlers were so great that the government had little hope of meeting them with the limited resources at its disposal. A complaint by W.B. Tosswill in 1858 emphasised the difficulties. He informed the Provincial Secretary that the state of the road between Lincoln and Prebbleton was very bad and that several gullies were dangerous, especially on a dark night, and after heavy rain two of them were almost impossible to cross. He argued that since nearly 2,000 acres had been sold during the previous year residents were entitled to have the roads passable before the winter<sup>1</sup>. Fifteen months later C.P. Cox from the Springs Run wrote that since the land on both sides of Springs Road had been sold, the temporary crossings used by settlers had been fenced, with the result that the gullies on the line of the road were all but impassable. Three were especially troublesome, and in particular that known as Prebble's Gully

was so steep that drays were frequently stuck in it and had to be unloaded in order to extricate them<sup>2</sup>.

To meet these demands the Provincial Council decided that the responsibility for organising, planning, and implementing their requests was properly the function of local communities who understood their needs and priorities better than central government. So in 1863 Road Districts controlled by elected boards were established<sup>3</sup>. These included the West Lincoln Road District, soon renamed Springs Road District, with headquarters at Springston, and the East Lincoln Road District, later the Lincoln Road District, based at Prebbleton. The two districts were separated by Lincoln Coal and Tramway Road, now known as Boundary Road, which ran from Lincoln to Rolleston. From Rolleston the Springs District boundary followed the Great South Road to the Selwyn River, down that river to Lake Ellesmere and along the lake to the Halswell River. The



*23. Samuel Dening Glyde, first clerk and surveyor to Springs Road Board. Courtesy Corporation of Norwood, Payneham and St. Peters, South Australia*

boundary then followed the Halswell upstream to the junction of River Road and the Lincoln-Tai Tapu Road and from there to Edward Street, East Belt and James Street to the Coal and Tramway Road. For the next twenty four years most matters of local governance were controlled by the road boards under the general supervision of the provincial government.

The first Springs Road Board was elected at the Weeden's [Weedons] Hotel on January 25 1864. Richard Bethell, George Ffitch, Thomas Pannett, W.J. Walters and James Robert were the first members; Richard Bethell was elected chairman<sup>4</sup>. The board appointed as its first surveyor and clerk the energetic Samuel Dening Glyde who also worked in the same capacity for the Lincoln

Road Board. He worked tirelessly for the wider district until he left for South Australia in 1871

where he was active in local and state politics. The discovery of gold took him to Western Australia where he died in Perth of typhoid fever on 27 January 1898 aged 54 and was buried in the Congregational Cemetery in East Perth twelve days later<sup>5</sup>.

The most pressing matters for the Board's attention were those of roading and drainage. Most roads had been surveyed, but many were unformed, and on some work could only proceed when surrounding swamplands had been drained. Progress was slow, and often frustrating, and as late as 1873 the Lincoln Road Board agreed to the formation of the upper part of the Coal Tramway Road provided that the Springs Road Board would form that part of the road between Lincoln School and Springs Track<sup>6</sup>. Once a road was formed, maintenance became a continuing drain on road board resources.

Sometimes the Board was frustrated by the intransigence of its ratepayers. Some farmers would erect fences across a road and would remove them only when threatened that desired road works would not proceed unless the fences were taken down. Gorse, used to provide living fences, was often a problem, and as late as 1881 the Springs Road Board had to deal with gorse which spread onto a road from an adjacent property. In the early days of settlement some weeds were a recurring and seemingly insurmountable problem. Watercress was one of these and it grew so luxuriantly that it threatened to block streams and rivers such as the L1 and the L2, as it sometimes does today. By 1870 the situation was so serious that at a meeting in Lincoln it was resolved that since these two drained much of the Springs District to the benefit of most of its residents, the cost of keeping them free of cress should be met from the rates<sup>7</sup>. Thistles too, were a major nuisance and these, with gorse, were the subject of Provincial Council ordinances designed to control their spread. In the drier areas sorrel also was a major problem and in one instance an accusation of malicious scattering of sorrel seed onto a ploughed paddock at Templeton resulted in a conviction and sentence of hard labour, a verdict quashed on an appeal based on the incompetence of the police investigation.

Wandering stock were always a nuisance to the road boards and to farmers, especially in the earlier days of settlement when there were few pounds, fences were not always secure, and the runs were being broken up by free holders. FitzGerald found himself in hot water when a number of his cattle broke through a fence enclosing 200 acres bought out of the Springs Run by a Mr Guild, and who had planted some of it in oats. The cattle destroyed the crop and when FitzGerald refused



to pay compensation action in the Supreme Court followed. Two local farmers, William Tod and Henry White, were appointed to assess the cost involved and on their evidence Guild was awarded 73 pounds 2 shillings and 6 pence in compensation<sup>8</sup>.

For some years the nearest pound was at Templeton outside the Springs Road Board area. This unsatisfactory situation changed in December 1869 when the Springs Road Board offered the Lincoln Township Fair Company a rental for the use of its yards, adjacent to Lincoln school, as a pound<sup>9</sup>. The offer was accepted, and in May 1870 the Superintendent, W.R. Rolleston, declared the yards a pound under the terms of the Trespass of Cattle Ordinance, 1869, and following the Board's recommendation appointed the local schoolmaster, Howard Charles Jacobson, the first pound keeper<sup>10</sup>. When Mr. Jacobson left Lincoln in 1874 Joseph Sluis, proprietor of the Perthshire Arms, was appointed to the position, but resigned within a few months of taking the job, forcing the Road Board to find a new keeper from 1 January 1875. This was difficult because there was no house at or near the pound and the Board hoped that the Fair Company would agree to build a cottage on their property, but there was a reluctance to do so. However, when John Goodrick was appointed to the position later in the year the company compromised by allowing him to use their rooms free of charge. Unfortunately Mr. Goodrick died soon afterwards and when the acting keeper's resignation soon followed, the Board was forced to close the pound "until further notice". The problems were resolved, for some years later George Ackerman Smith complained that the pound keeper, Mark Finch, had overcharged him, but the Board declined to act because in their view the matter should be resolved between the complainant and the keeper<sup>11</sup>. By this time the Fair Company was no longer active and so when the school committee wanted access to the pound pump they sought permission from both the Road Board and the Fair Company. The Road Board responded by informing the committee that the position of the pound was under review and that it might be relocated to a more central position, and the Fair Company allowed use of the pump.

Nevertheless the Board continued using the Fair grounds for several more years until in 1886 it was asked to leave. The Board was given two months to look for a new location and in September of that year the clerk was asked to prepare plans for a new pound to be located at the Springston gravel reserve on the corner of Ellesmere Junction Road and Rattletrack Road<sup>12</sup>. A tender from Alsop, M'Clintock and Co. for 91 pounds was accepted in November and in December the new structure was leased to a Mr Sly, for 16 pounds a year<sup>13</sup>. The history of the pound from 1886 to the

end of the century is uncertain, but it is noted that in 1893 residents asked the Road Board to form the surface of North Belt from the old pound, by then part of the school grounds, to the Domain.

The rivers and streams in the district needed to be bridged, and at Lincoln the L1, dividing the village into two parts, was a priority. The L1 in Lincoln must have been bridged from the beginning, but the first mention of a bridge is an advertisement in the Lyttelton Times of 4 July 1867 in which the Springs Road Board warns that the bridge was unsafe for heavy traffic until it had been repaired. Six years later the Board reported that the bridge was sound, but that the worn decking was not worth the cost of asphaltting, a decision which resulted in the Board paying compensation of one pound one shilling for cancelling a contract for the work. At about the same time residents asked that the bridge be raised, and a plan for this work was submitted to the Board, but again action was deferred because of cost.

Nevertheless, a replacement for the existing bridge was needed and so in November 1873 the Road Board offered a prize of ten pounds ten shillings for the best design submitted to it. A few months later the Provincial Government agreed to contribute 400 pounds towards the cost of a new bridge on condition that construction was supervised by the Provincial Engineer<sup>14</sup>. Finally in May 1874 the Road Board invited tenders for an iron girder bridge to be built to the design by John Anderson of Christchurch, but whether he was awarded the prize is not known. However, a claim by a Mr. Cuff for a design submitted by him was rejected.

In May 1874 the contract was awarded to John Anderson's company, the Canterbury Iron Foundry. On 26 December 1874 The Press reported that the new bridge, 35 feet long and 21 feet wide, with stone abutments, wing walls, iron railings and a wooden floor was near completion. The bridge still stands today although there have been various modifications, the latest of which was the erection of new iron rails and lights as a village millennium project. It is assumed that the new bridge was built at a higher level than the old bridge in order to allow for the recently created mill pond. The remains of a road possibly leading to a bridge at a lower level and slightly to the side of the present bridge can still be seen today.

For many years there was only one bridge, an inconvenience for villagers who in 1891 asked the Springs Road Board for a traffic bridge to cross the river<sup>15</sup> at North Belt. Instead the Board built a fence across the road to prevent the unwary from injury by falling over the steep edge of the

terrace. This was not good enough for the residents who in 1893 asked for a light traffic bridge but again were refused because the estimated cost of 60 pounds was considered to be too high. However, demand continued and five years later residents again asked for the bridge, but again the cost was considered too great. Instead, the Board decided to construct a ford to be paid for with money originally budgeted for an equally desired footpath on Robert Street<sup>16</sup>. A tender from T. Galletly for twelve pounds five shillings was accepted and the ford was constructed, but not without indignant comments by disappointed Robert Street residents. It is not known when it was replaced by the present culvert, sometimes referred to as “the dip”.

The Liffey Reserve, bounded by Leinster and Kildare Terraces on either side of the L1, was set aside for the villagers when Lincoln was first surveyed, but it was not formally conveyed to the Crown until 1882<sup>17</sup>. The wording of the deed led the Commissioner of Crown Lands to conclude that the reserve was the responsibility of the Springs Road Board and was not to be administered by the Crown under the 1881 Domains Act. The Road Board contested this view and sought the help of A.P. O’Callaghan, the local member of the House of Representatives, with the result that in 1883 the reserve, known as the Lincoln Recreation Ground, was placed under the control of the Lincoln Domain Board, consisting of five members. These were John Wolfe, John Scott Brown, James Doherty, Joseph Henry Sluis, and Cornelius Kelliher<sup>18</sup>.

However, villagers were concerned about the untidy state of the reserve well before the Domain Board was formed and in 1879 decided to make use of grants promised by the Selwyn County Council and the Springs Road Board to improve the area by building fences and planting trees. Messrs Brown, Doherty, Meyenberg, Ross and White were appointed to oversee the work, to decide on rights of way for the convenience of adjoining property owners, and besides the usual maintenance to ask the Acclimatisation Society for a grant in order to stock the river with trout. A year later residents again met to discuss progress, to volunteer their services for any work required, and to voice concerns about other matters affecting the village. There was dissatisfaction that parts of South Belt and the reserve had been divided by the railway line and it was hoped, in vain, that the government would offer compensation for this inconvenience.



*24. A view of Lincoln Township looking towards the west near the intersection of South Belt and Robert Street with the Southern Alps in the background. The photograph is taken from the railway water tower.*

After 1881 the Domain Board negotiated either with the Selwyn County Council or the Road Board for grants towards maintenance, argued their responsibility to drain the area, and sought the appointment of a new trustee whenever a replacement was needed. The Domain Board referred to the trees in the reserve as the “reserve plantation” so by then plantings must have been extensive and probably the mature trees of oak and ash seen today date from this time. The Road Board was also asked to fund repairs to flood damage and since the river was dammed to form the mill pond, damage may have been due to the river overtopping its banks. Flood damage would not be of much concern today. Improvements continued and by 1885 walks had been formed on both sides of the Domain, and it was hoped to install gates and to build a footbridge across the river. Tenders of fourteen pounds five shillings for these works were accepted.

Besides the planting, the forming of paths and the building of fences and bridges, the decision in September 1900 to move the Lincoln Library, now known as the Pioneer Hall, to the reserve at the western end of the bridge was of major importance to the village. The Road Board when asked

for its approval to move the building referred the library committee to the Domain Board which was considered the body responsible. The move signalled that the centre of activity had really moved from the north eastern end of the village to the commercial area in and around Market Square and is described in greater detail in the chapter relating to the library.

The Road Board was responsible for overseeing the health of the community. Accordingly, when there were outbreaks of diphtheria, as was case when Dr Guthrie and Dr. Cooke were practising, the Board was informed and at the close of its meeting formed into a Health Board to discuss the situation<sup>19</sup>. Earlier when there were health concerns regarding the ponding of water under houses, the Board not only improved the drains, in its role as the local Health Board, but also appointed an inspector of nuisances<sup>20</sup>.

New immigrants who obtained work with road boards were often housed in cottages built by the boards with help from the Provincial Government. This topic has been thoroughly discussed by R.A. Chapman (1999)<sup>21</sup> who confirms the presence of immigrant cottages next to the Police Station on Boundary Road. These, built by the Lincoln Road Board, seem to have been the only cottages close to Lincoln, although there were some on Springs Road opposite the Prebbleton cemetery, and others were built at, or close to, Springston on land later used as a gravel pit, then as a rubbish dump and now by the Springston pony club. The cottages were never intended to be permanent homes, but rather to give immigrant families a chance to become established before looking for a home of their own. Because of this road boards were sometimes asked by the government to evict existing tenants in order to make way for a new influx of immigrants who needed a home in order to take up a job to which they had been directed.

In 1864 the Government Gazette gave notice that an area of 18.5 acres in the Lincoln road district fronting the Lincoln and Coal Tramway Road (Boundary Road) was set aside for a gravel pit and designated Reserve 343. Fifteen years later an area of 7 acres 1 rood and 5 perches was separated from the reserve for use as a public cemetery, thus relieving pressure on the public cemetery at Springston<sup>22</sup>. The Gazette notice also recorded that William Henry Peryman, William Prebble, Stephen Cole Moule, Patrick Henley, and James Osborne were appointed trustees of the Lincoln and Prebbleton cemeteries both of which came under the jurisdiction of the Lincoln Road Board. W.H. Peryman was first chairman of this Board.

By the end of 1879 the Lincoln Road Board reported that fencing at the Lincoln cemetery was nearly finished, that the land had been cleared of gorse and tussock, that the area had been ploughed and sown in grass, and that the secretary was to invite applications from the different denominations for their required plots. However, progress was slow and in May 1880 the chairman reported that the cemetery was not yet ready for burials. Gates had to be altered, more fences were needed, and better arrangements were needed to hold the horses of those coming on horseback for horses were not allowed beyond the entrance gates<sup>23</sup>.

Beside the responsibility of putting the cemetery in order the Board had to draw up regulations for the control and management of cemeteries at Prebbleton and Lincoln. These involved the rights of those purchasing plots, the duties of the appointed sexton, and the Board's responsibility in the management of the cemetery. The Sexton's duties included those of digging graves, to be "properly habited" at each burial, and of keeping the cemetery in good order. It was the Board's responsibility to maintain proper records of burials and plots purchased and to make these available on request for a fee of 2 shillings, but not on Sundays and holidays. There were also strict regulations regarding the construction of vaults and any coffins placed in a vault were to be lined with lead and securely soldered. Further, all work necessary for the building or opening of a vault, including the provision of tools, had to be supplied by those applying for the work. Vaults have never been used in either cemetery.

The Lincoln Road Board was not only responsible for the Lincoln cemetery. Because the Board boundary ran along Boundary Road, James Street to East Belt, along East Belt and then along Edward Street, the areas to the north and east of these streets were administered by the Lincoln Road Board. Thus when the Presbyterians or the library committee wanted footpaths, or some other service they turned to the Lincoln Road Board for help.

As the district grew road boards became counties and in doing so assumed greater responsibilities for their regions. Springs Road Board became Springs County in 1911 and in the 1960's merged with its neighbour to become Ellesmere County which recently amalgamated with others to form the Selwyn District Council stretching from the coast to Arthurs Pass. This trend may not be over and the possibility exists that Lincoln and its surrounding district may soon become a suburb of greater Christchurch.



## Sources and Notes

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10. Province of Canterbury Gazette 24 May 18 1870. W. Rolleston, Provincial Superintendent proclaimed “that the Lincoln Township Fair Company’s yards at Lincoln shall be Public Pound...”
11. Lyttelton Times. 7 February 1881. See [Papers Past](#).
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## CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

### The Railway

In their advertisement of 20 June 1862<sup>1</sup> auctioneers J. Ollivier and Son stated that one of the advantages of living in Lincoln was that the proposed Little River railway would pass close by the village, providing access to the forests on the peninsula and to markets in Christchurch. An early intention of William White was to build a wooden line from Little River to Christchurch in order to reduce the cost of transporting timber from the peninsula and building stone from the Halswell quarry<sup>2</sup>. The Little River Tramway Ordinance<sup>3</sup> gave the necessary approval for the project to go ahead. It was to start at the corner of Moorhouse Avenue and Lincoln Road, go down Lincoln Road to Halswell quarry, then to Tai Tapu and Birdlings Flat and on to Little River, Cooptown and Puaha. However, the Christchurch end of the line was not built beyond the quarry, only a short distance was completed at Little River, and all work on the project stopped at the end of 1866. It was to be another decade before the dream of a railway line through Lincoln was to be realised and longer still before it reached Little River.

The need for an efficient means of transport between Christchurch and Lyttelton was recognised by the Provincial Council and despite strong opposition from influential people such as James Edward FitzGerald, a line was opened between Christchurch and Ferrymead on December 1, 1863. Three years later the southern railway line was opened to Rolleston and by October 5, 1867, it had reached Selwyn. It is interesting to note that in this context provincial engineer Edward Dobson said that in his opinion the Canterbury landscape was suited to a combination of light horse tramways with a main locomotive line<sup>4</sup> and he hoped that it would not be long before there was a light tramway leading from the Ellesmere district to the main trunk line at Selwyn. Two years later the matter was discussed at a meeting in the Wheatsheaf Hotel at which it was emphatically stated that unless there were feeder tramways from Leeston and Lincoln the southern railway was of little practical use to farmers in these districts.

The time had come for farmers in the Ellesmere district to persuade the Provincial Government that a tramway or light railway from Selwyn through to Southbridge was necessary in order to help them get their wheat to Christchurch. On 19 May 1869<sup>5</sup> the Superintendent, William Rolleston, received a proposal that a horse drawn tramway be built provided that the Provincial Council was willing to encourage the scheme and give what practical help it could. The estimated cost of 14

miles of tramway was £21,000 to which £4,000 was added for rolling stock, horses and other necessary equipment. It was intended to form the line along the centre of existing roads with iron rails on wooden sleepers, and constructed so as not to interfere with ordinary traffic.

The Superintendent was willing to support the project<sup>6</sup> and in his address to the Council in October 1869 stated that the proposal deserved favourable consideration because of the volume of grain produced in the district. Although there were differences of opinion as to whether there should be a tramway or a light railway everyone agreed that some form of rail transport was needed. Rolleston apparently thought a light railway would be more efficient, whilst others, including A.C. Knight MPC, believed that cost restricted the choice to that of a tramway.

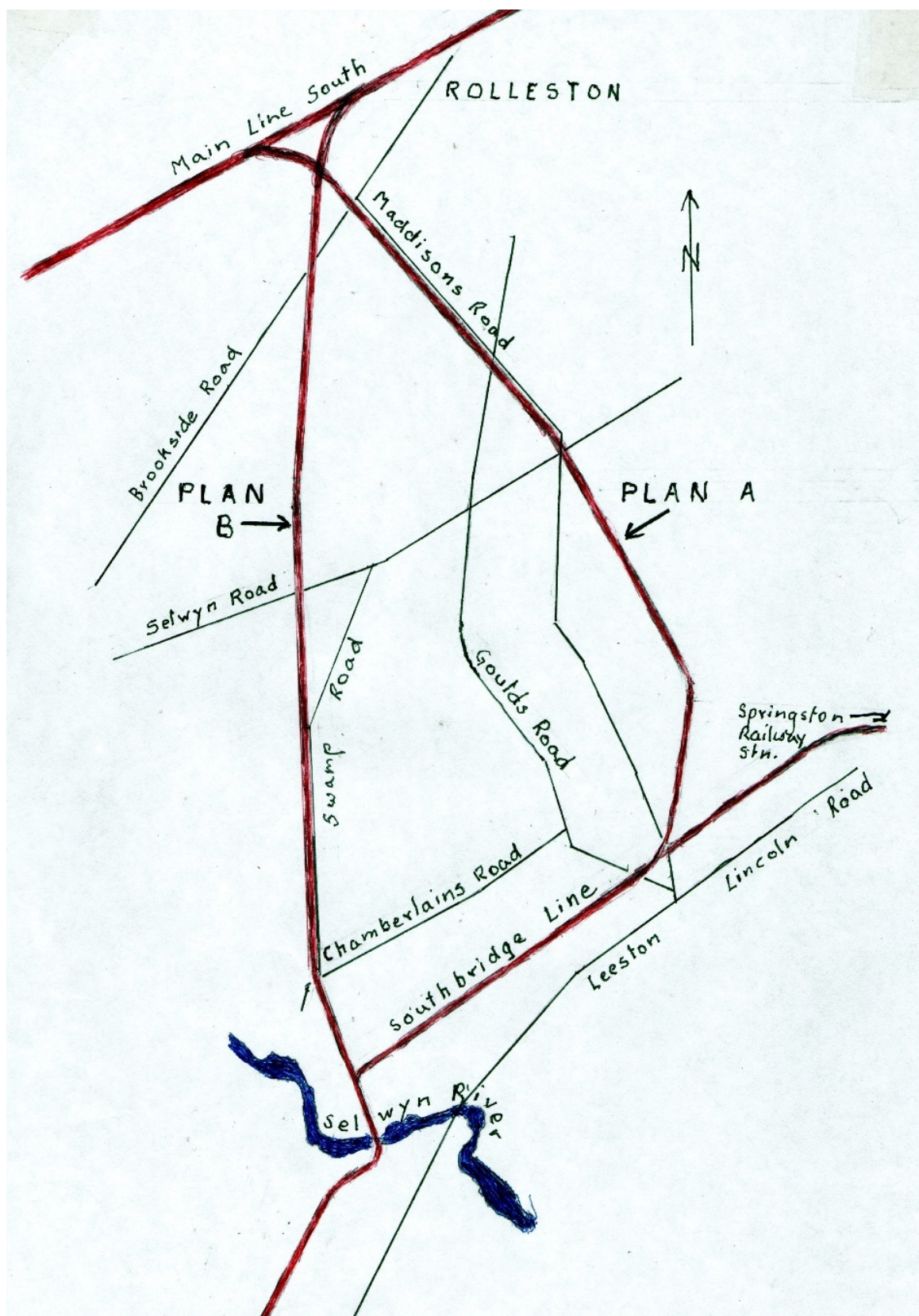
Knight expressed this belief in a humorous manner at a harvest dinner when, responding to the toast to The Provincial Council, he claimed to have heard at a similar occasion that after a few glasses of wine the diners enthusiastically supported the idea of a light tramway with a narrow gauge. After a few more glasses it was proposed to have a light, narrow gauge railway and after still more wine the choice to have a full blown railway was unanimous. Sadly, though, in his opinion it could only be a tramway<sup>7</sup>! The Provincial Council had already agreed that a tramway or light railway line between Rolleston and Southbridge was needed and the Superintendent was empowered to purchase the required land if the Colonial Government agreed with the proposal. The Council also accepted the requirement of central government that the gauge was to be 3 feet 6 inches rather than the 5 feet 3 inches used in Canterbury at the time. In the meantime, the volume of grain carried to Christchurch and Lyttelton was increasing. Early in 1871 special trains arrived daily in Christchurch carrying as much as 180 tons of grain, of which up to 432 tons had passed through the tunnel to Lyttelton on its way to export markets.

There was increasing traffic to Rolleston at harvest time when most farmers in the area would take their produce to the railway station for carriage to Christchurch. This was convenient for the farmer, but a worry for the Springs Road Board because the main roads to the station passed through their district. The cost of maintenance was high. In 1870 the Board asked the Provincial Government for a special grant<sup>9</sup> of 300 pounds towards the forming and metalling of about 40 chains of Maddisons Road and the ongoing maintenance of parts of it since it was the main road to the station and was used most frequently by farmers from the Ellesmere district. The damage resulted because the weight carried by the wagons caused their narrow wheels to cut into the road

surface. The following year there was a similar request when the Board asked for 100 pounds to repair the road from Selwyn to the Rolleston Railway Station which was swampy and almost impossible to use.

Pressure for the construction of branch lines continued. The unemployed of the Selwyn district made their point at a meeting by supporting the idea of a branch line from Selwyn Station to Leeston. At a suggested cost of 6000 pounds it would pass through the heart of the wheat growing district to become one of the most useful in Canterbury. Its construction would also provide employment for those without work<sup>10</sup>. Later in the year a crowded meeting at Leeston<sup>11</sup> discussed the matter with W. Pember Reeves, Resident Minister for the Colonial Government, with Provincial Councillors Colonel Renzie De Brett and W.E. Jollie, and the Provincial Secretary, W. Kennaway. Although there was general agreement that a railway line should be constructed, some still worried about cost and because of this it was proposed that the line end at Leeston rather than at Southbridge, a proposal quickly dropped when Reeves emphasised the need for unanimity if the General Assembly was to support the matter. The meeting also had to decide on one of two suggested lines for the railway put forward by the Provincial Surveyor.

The first, Plan A, proposed a line of rail from Rolleston along Maddison's Road, crossing Selwyn Road to follow the Tramway reserve before turning south at Weedons and Selwyn Road to eventually run parallel to the Lincoln – Leeston Road before turning towards Southbridge at Leeston, a distance of about 18½ miles. The second, Plan B, about two miles shorter, followed a line south from Rolleston along Swamp Road to the Selwyn River, where it joined the proposed line of Plan A. Plan A was considered to be the best option because the line would pass through the most productive land, but because the government thought that Plan B was preferred, they planned accordingly. This was a misunderstanding and after some uncertainty the option of Plan A was adopted.



25. The two possible routes for the proposed Rolleston Southbridge line. Drawn by Wayne Kay, based on NZTopo50-BX23

However, there was increasing pressure to build the line through the Lincoln and Prebbleton districts from Racecourse Station, later known as Hornby Station. This preference was endorsed by a public meeting in Prebbleton<sup>12</sup> at which it was emphasised that most farmers in the area were willing to give land or to sell cheaply in order to further the proposal. It was argued that the line would then pass through some of the most fertile land in the area and thus eliminate carriage through the less productive land between Springston and Rolleston.

In June, a committee including such well known men as A.C. Knight MPC, J.N. Tosswill, A.P. O'Callaghan, James Gammack, and W.H. Peryman, met with W. Pember Reeves, the resident minister, to discuss the proposed diversion<sup>13</sup>. The land through which the line would pass produced thousands of bushels of wheat, barley and oats, had a rateable value of about 23,000 pounds involving 472 holdings, and was home to an estimated population of 2,000. The cost would not be excessive for if the line passed north of Lincoln there would be no need for a bridge, and the largest culvert would be no more than 2 ft. long. If the line passed south of Lincoln the L1 river would need to be bridged, but it could be straightened and channels cut through two lagoons for about 1,000 pounds. The minister thought that the matter was one of cost and so for favourable consideration the landowners would need to meet the government "in a liberal spirit".

A week later Reeves, accompanied by Messrs Selby Tancred, J.N. Tosswill, and J.S. Bruce, Springs Road District Surveyor, visited Lincoln to examine the proposed route<sup>14</sup>. It was obvious that there were no engineering difficulties and Reeves was delighted with the fertile country through which they passed, a startling contrast to the arid Rolleston plains. The party visited Moffat's mill at Lincoln and was surprised by its size and the business done. Of the two possible routes it was thought that the southern one would be chosen to pass through Tod's farm and past the mill and so meet the interests of settlers living east of Lincoln at Tai Tapu and at Little River. Surveys would begin immediately! Finally, in September 1872, the central government introduced a bill to alter the Southbridge line so that it would run from Racecourse through Prebbleton and Lincoln rather than from Rolleston.

In March 1873<sup>15</sup> the matter was formalised by Government Proclamation, and authority to build a branch line from Rolleston to Southbridge was revoked in favour of a branch line from at, or near, the Racecourse Station. The first schedule of the proclamation noted that the line was to pass through the Templeton, Spreydon, Lincoln, Springs and Ellesmere Road Districts, and would



end near the southernmost corner of Southbridge. The dream of a rail connection to Lincoln was about to be realized.

For Lincoln residents it was now necessary to decide on the location of their railway station. There were two choices. The first was on the Southbridge side of the L1 and the second, the preferred site, considered to be more central, was on the Christchurch side of the L1 and would involve land owned by Mr. Tod, who was apparently reluctant to lose it. The fact that the station would be located on a curve was also a disadvantage, but since both Christchurch and Selwyn stations were built on steeper curves this was not seen as a problem by the authorities. Despite their preference for the northern site residents agreed to accept the southern site if their first choice was rejected. In the event the southern side was chosen and later the Lincoln station was to become an important junction leading to Southbridge and Little River<sup>16</sup>.

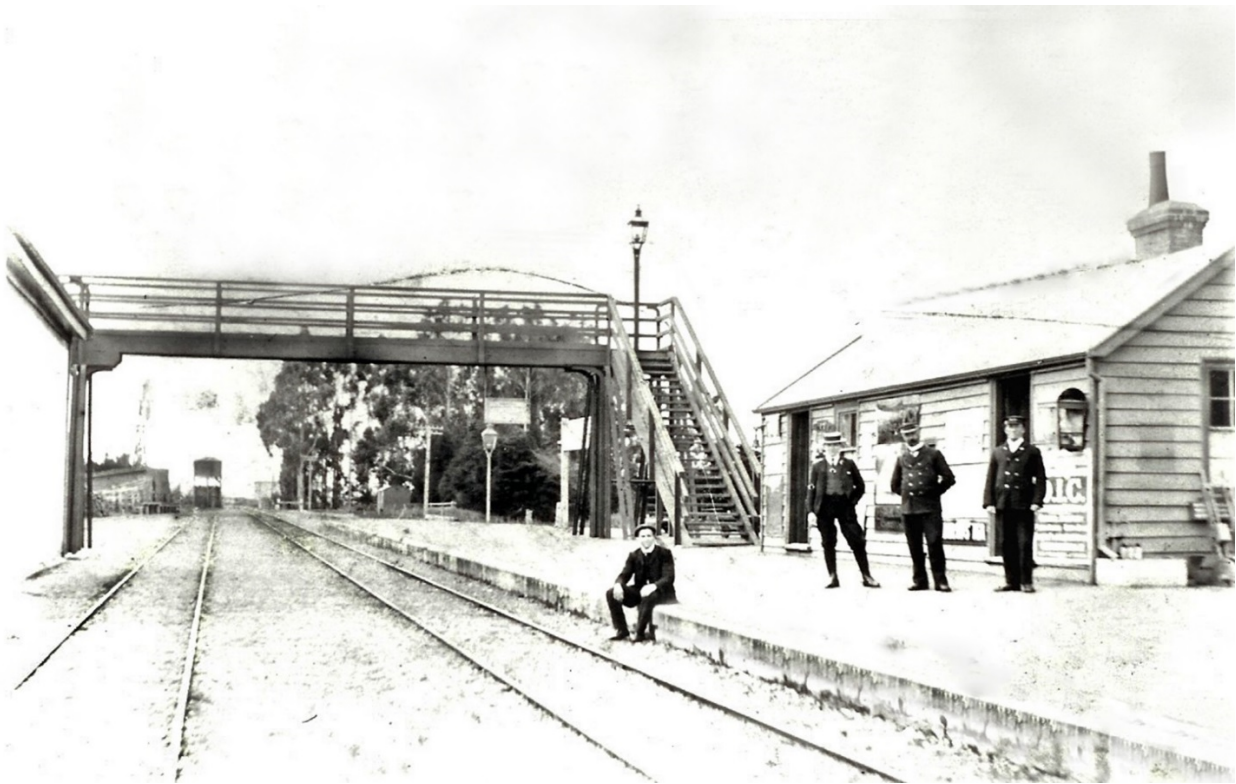


*26. An aerial view of Lincoln looking towards the railway with the Lincoln Store and the Liffey Cottage in the foreground.*

Inevitably there were problems. Prebbleton residents were concerned that the crossing on Springs Road at the northern end of the village would prove to be a dangerous one because of the sharp angle at which it crossed the road. On a windy day a train might not be heard or even seen and since it was close to the school, children who had to use the crossing could be put at risk. It was decided to ask for gates at the crossing to be operated by a gate keeper. Indeed, some wanted gates at every crossing between Prebbleton and Lincoln, but this request was considered too demanding and was dropped.

Although the Springs Road Board complained that delays in construction were not helping the farming community, the permanent way had almost reached the Southbridge terminus by mid 1874, fencing was expected to be rapidly completed, and contracts for the laying of sleepers and plates were advertised. The Provincial Government was in no doubt that the quick access to markets made possible by the railway would be of great benefit to the farming community. A trial run on the line was made to Prebbleton and speeds of up to 20 mph were reached. A number of railway employees were carried as passengers on this trial, and when the train reached Prebbleton the party adjourned to the hotel where the occasion was celebrated in an appropriate manner. The locomotive, christened the "Pride of Prebbleton", was able to stop within 2 chains in a braking trial when travelling at 15 mph with a heavy truck attached. And finally, on 6 October 1874<sup>17</sup>, Lincoln folk watched as a train crossed the bridge over the L1 and steamed as far as Springs Road. It was expected that the line would soon open for business, but because of the slow delivery of parts from Dunedin it was not until July 1875 that the line to Southbridge was fully operational.





27. The first Lincoln Railway Station in 1908. Charles Isles - Stationmaster, Alfred Currie - Porter, Charles White - Cadet, Alex Currie – Cadet.



28. The enlarged Lincoln Railway Station c.1950. Courtesy of the Alexander Turnbull Library – Ref. F18084.

The line to Southbridge was officially opened on 13 July 1875. A special train carrying guests, including the Superintendent and the Executive Council, left Christchurch at 10.30 am and arrived in Southbridge for the celebration at 1 pm! There was no formal welcome when the train arrived, but it and its passengers were greeted by a cheering crowd. Southbridge was in festive mood. Flags and flowers decorated the town, school children were given a free ride to Leeston and back, there was a bazaar in the town hall to raise funds for a church organ, and lunch, presided over by Mr. J.E. Lee, chairman of the celebration committee, was held in the railway goods shed for about 400 guests. After the meal the chairman thanked all those who had contributed to the project and numerous toasts were drunk in honour of the Queen, and to those who in one way or another had helped bring the project to a successful conclusion. It is interesting to note that during the speeches there were frequent references to the proposed abolition of the provincial system of government which many thought would die hard in Canterbury. Finally, the celebrations over, the visitors returned to Christchurch on the 4.15 pm train.<sup>18</sup>

The Southbridge terminal included a large goods shed, a locomotive depot, and private sidings for stock and station agents' yards and was considerably larger than the Lincoln station. At Lincoln the post office was incorporated in the station building and the positions of stationmaster and postmaster were held by the same man. This individual was Mr. J. Frame, whose dual position carried an annual salary of 154 pounds. The stationmaster's salary was 142 pounds whilst that of the postmaster was worth no more than 12 pounds per annum, perhaps an indication of the volume of mail handled by the post office at the time. Once the line was open the mail was carried by rail, allowing for a later closing time than was possible when J.J. Herrick's coaches were the only means of transport<sup>19</sup>. Then the twice weekly service left Lincoln at 7.45 am to reach the White Hart Hotel in Christchurch at 3.30 pm.

Of course, the line was not perfect. From the beginning there were complaints that the train was too slow and in 1899 the Ellesmere Guardian drew attention to the problem<sup>20</sup> when it noted that it took over two hours to travel 30 miles and that a passenger on the Southbridge train said that *he saw riders, vehicles and bicycles pass him at all points along the way*. However, the speed was not so much a function of the line weight or power of the locomotive, but a consequence of the short distance, generally about two miles, between stations which meant that there was no time to build up speed before the engine had to slow for the next stop. A passenger also wrote

complaining that at Prebbleton the train did not stop at the station, but at the road crossing beyond, and for some reason was unable to reverse. Passengers, especially older passengers, were inconvenienced by having to leave the train at the road crossing. Accidents at railway crossings were always a possibility, and in the early days there were some close calls leading to the suggestion that a whistle should be kept sounding as the locomotive approached a crossing. An accident at the Lincoln station resulting in the death of a young boy is described later in the chapter on accidents and other disasters.

Sometimes the behaviour of passengers was less than desirable. A male passenger was fined one pound for attempting to board a train on the Southbridge line whilst under the influence of liquor and assaulting a passenger in the process. More seriously, an attempt was made to derail a train as described later.

In order to better utilise the timber resources of Banks Peninsula it was proposed to build a railway line from Lincoln to Little River. In 1878 surveys were carried out with the intention of eventually extending the line to Akaroa. However, four years were to pass before the first 17 miles were opened to Birdlings Flat and on 11 March 1886 the line was opened to Little River. The line to Akaroa from Little River was never built, nor was a suggested line from Southbridge to Rakaia. In both cases cost, including tunnelling in the case of Akaroa, and bridging in the case of the Rakaia extension, was considered to be far too high for the expected return.





29. *The train from Little River steams into Lincoln station c.1960. Photo Hugh Bennett.*

Lincoln and the surrounding district had its railway, but this was not the end of the matter, for in 1878 there were calls from the Selwyn County Council for a railway link between the east and west coasts. The matter was taken up with the Minister of Public Works by Canterbury MPs to no avail and it was not until four years later that more decisive action was taken. Then, the Christchurch City Council called a meeting of Canterbury mayors and chairmen of commercial, industrial, and agricultural bodies from which was formed a Railway League to lobby for the east-west rail connection. The West Coast Railway League promised its support and the following year the League met in Lincoln<sup>21</sup> where it was unanimously resolved to support the demand for a railway link between Canterbury and the West Coast. However, A.P. O'Callaghan, MHR, stated that although he had no hesitation in opposing the construction of a line to Picton, he was hesitant to support the West Coast proposal until he had read a recently published report of the Railway Commission which had chosen Arthurs Pass as the best route to the Coast. The following month



the League met in the Christchurch City Council chambers at which A.P. O'Callaghan of Lincoln, who had finally read the report, was now prepared to support the cause. The League's purpose was to press for the abandonment of the proposed Picton line and transfer the money allocated to it (180,000 pounds) for the construction of the Canterbury - West Coast line. However there was a general lack of support and it was only in 1886 that the Midland Railway Company was formed in England to construct the line following approaches by the League. The Midland Railway Contract Bill was passed into law the following year, with the condition that the contract be completed by 1895. Progress was slower than expected and in 1895 the government seized the railway on the grounds that the Company had failed to keep its contract.

The Southbridge line served the district well, but as roads and transport improved, and government policies changed, the railway faced more and more competition until eventually it became uneconomic. In 1951 the Little River and Southbridge lines were closed to passenger traffic and ten years later the Little River and the Lincoln to Southbridge lines were closed completely. In 1967 the line from Hornby to Lincoln was closed and the rails between Prebbleton and Lincoln were lifted. The track from Racecourse (Hornby) to Lincoln and Little River has been transformed into a safe and popular cycle way which brings custom to the small towns along the way.

### **The Post Office**

Although there was no official Post Office at Lincoln in the early years, mail was apparently carried to and from Christchurch by William Rayers and distributed from Rowell's accommodation house on the Springs Road-Boundary Road corner as early as 1863. It is not known for how long this arrangement lasted, but by November 1868 J.J. Herrick of Tai Tapu was advertising his mail run from Christchurch to Lincoln via Halswell and Tai Tapu, leaving Lincoln twice each week at 7.30 am and returning from the White Hart Hotel, Christchurch at 3.30 pm the same day<sup>22</sup>.

The first official post office in the village opened shortly afterwards in January 1869 when H.C. Jacobson, the local school master, was appointed postmaster, no doubt supplementing his income by doing so. Jacobson filled the position until 1 July 1874 when Samuel Fleming succeeded him. The location of the Post Office is not known, but it is probable that in Jacobson's time it was at the school house and that it moved to Fleming's store and bakery in Leinster Terrace when he took the job. A year later the post office was moved to the railway station when the Southbridge line

opened. The post office worked from the railway station for eighty years and was under the control of a postmaster-stationmaster for fifty of those years. A long serving postmaster, J.C. Revell, took up his appointment on 1 January 1878 on an annual salary of 152 pounds - postmaster 12 pounds and stationmaster 140 pounds. Mr. Revell remained in control until February 1900, and during that time money order and savings bank and telegraph facilities were provided, the first on 3 January 1887, and the second by April 1888.

It was another ten years before full-time staff worked at the post office to deliver telegrams under the supervision of the postmaster-stationmaster, a role that remained in place until the first full-time postmaster, A.J. Lysaght, took up the position on 27 October 1928. Despite continued agitation for a separate post office, it was only in 1953 that a purpose built office was opened on the corner of Gerald and Lyttelton Streets under the control of A.E. Davis. The office operated from this site until the reforms of the 1990s resulted in its closure and a postal outlet was opened in Lincoln Hardware, now Hammer Hardware, on 17 April 1989. The franchise now operates from the adjacent Post Shop on Gerald St where it offers full postal and banking facilities.

## The Police

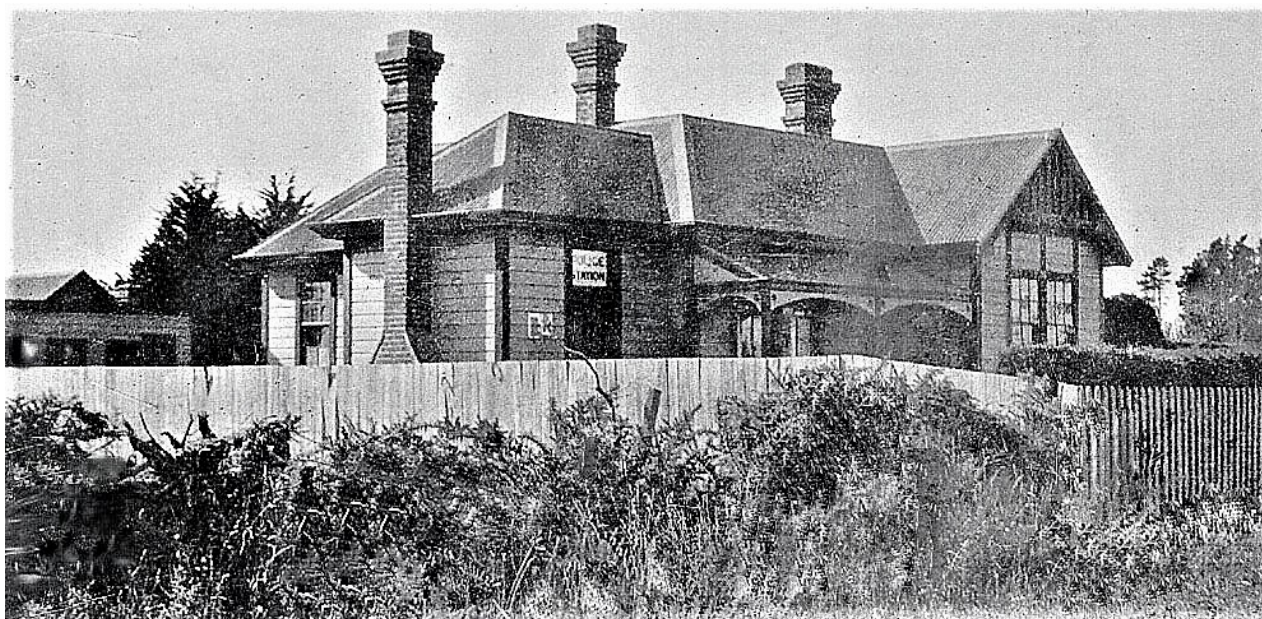
Law and order is always a good talking point, and it would have been no different in the early days of settlement in and around Lincoln. Then there were practical difficulties affecting the efficiency of the law enforcing authority. Police pay in the 1860s was poor and officers were resigning to join the gold diggings in Otago. Country police too, had to cover large areas and besides keeping the peace were required to check the standard of the scattered public houses and to keep an eye out for runaway sailors. Probably the greatest concern for locals during the early period would have focused on the large itinerant population looking for work during the shearing and harvest seasons.

Although the Road Boards put pressure on the Provincial Government to increase the police presence in the district it was not until 27 January 1876 that a police station was opened in Boundary Road on a reserve<sup>23</sup> which is now the site of the Lincoln Golf Club parking lot. This was not a particularly convenient location and in 1879 The Press reported that a decision was made to shift the station to a section near the bridge over the L1<sup>24</sup>, possibly the land on which the Fire Station now stands.

**LINCOLN POLICE STATION.**—In consequence of the inconvenient distance of the Lincoln police station from the township, it has been decided to remove it on to the section near the L1 bridge, where it was originally intended to erect it.

*30. Report of the move of the Lincoln Police Station to near the L1 Bridge. The Press. 9 October 1897. Courtesy of Papers Past.*

According to the report the station was intended to have been built on this site in the first place, but there is no record of this ever happening. There is even some uncertainty as to exactly when the Police Station on the corner of Gerald Street and West Belt was built, although it is thought that it was sometime between 1901 and 1913 when a number of new rural stations were built.<sup>25</sup> The station has been in that location ever since although the old building, incorporating the policeman's home and the station, was replaced in 1980 by the existing complex.



*31. Police station and house, early 20th century.*

In the early period there were a number of petty crimes. Thus, in 1871, the Lincoln hotel keeper was robbed of some shirts and cotton socks; a man known as Tom stole a pair of moleskin trousers from his employer, a Lincoln farmer.

**FIGHTING.**—Charles Restall and James Johnston were charged with having committed an assault at Lincoln on June 25. Mr Donnelly appeared for Restall, and Mr Byrne for Johnston. From the evidence it appeared that the two lads had had a fight outside the Druids' Hall at Lincoln, where a bazaar was being held. The Bench fined each accused 10s, and ordered the costs, £1 10s 4d, to be divided between them.

*32. Report of an assault at Lincoln. The Star. 10 July 1896. Courtesy of Papers Past.*

Later more serious crimes involved the theft of 260 pounds from a guest at the Springston hotel, and at about the same time the Lincoln Post Office at the railway station, was entered and a packet containing jewellery was taken. On another occasion a woman was arrested for “sly grogging” and Constable Weatherley of Lincoln was awarded two pounds for his part in the prosecution. An offence with potentially serious consequences occurred after a drunk was put off the Southbridge to Lincoln train.<sup>26</sup> The next day workmen found stones jammed between the points and large pieces of wood lying across the track near Lincoln. The suspect was described as being an Irishman about 23 years old of medium build and clean shaven, and wearing a dark tweed suit and a billycock hat. However, he was never apprehended and brought before the courts.

**LARCENY.**—John Kelly was charged with stealing a demijohn, the property of William Geddes of the Lincoln Brewery. Mr Geddes identified the demijohn and deposed to having seen accused taking it away and “planting” it. Its value was 4s or 5s. Another man was with accused. Accused was neither drunk nor sober; accused had not been employed at the brewery. The accused denied having taken the jar. He had not seen it until shown to him by the constable.—Constable Wetherley deposed that accused was, when arrested, under the influence of drink. Accused had given the name of Edward O’Shannassy.—Sub-Inspector O’Donnell informed the Bench that accused had only just come out of gaol. Several previous convictions were on record against him. The Bench sent him to gaol for six months with hard labour.

*33. Report of larceny at Lincoln. Lyttelton Times. 20 September 1880. Courtesy of Papers Past.*

A civil case brought against FitzGerald barely a year after Lincoln was founded was reported at length and must have attracted a great deal of local attention<sup>27</sup>. Some time in 1861 a Mr Guild purchased 200 acres out of the Springs Run and sowed 80 acres down in oats. In February 1862, shortly before the crop was due to be harvested, FitzGerald's cattle breached a sod fence and destroyed the crop. FitzGerald agreed to pay compensation, but then refused to accept the estimate of independent assessors, one of whom was William Tod, and so forced Guild to sue. The verdict was found in favour of the plaintiff who was awarded 75 pounds in damages. Apparently the sod fence was three feet high, the ditch from which the sods were taken was six feet wide, and in the centre of the nine feet wide gateway were two posts to which rails were attached with flax and wound around with Wild Irishman to discourage any attempt to enter.

Some introduced plants, including thistles, water cress and sorrel, were troublesome weeds in the early days of settlement and their control was important. It is no surprise then that anyone suspected of sowing sorrel seed in a neighbour's paddock out of spite was treated as a criminal.<sup>28</sup> Patrick Gallagher was indicted for wilful damage of land belonging to George Curragh, his neighbour, by sowing sorrel seed in a recently ploughed field. The two neighbours were not on good terms and had been overheard arguing over Gallagher's horses which apparently strayed onto Curragh's land. Harry Feast, arresting officer, gave evidence that he had followed footprints from Gallagher's gate across the road onto the ploughed field and on comparison found that they compared with the length of stride and boot size of the accused, but admitted that he had not made the same comparison with an employee's boots. Despite the rather casual police work and protestations of innocence by the accused, the jury clearly believed in his guilt and taking into account the cost of eradication and restoring the field to its original condition they estimated the damage to be about 80 pounds. In pronouncing sentence of two years hard labour in Lyttelton gaol the judge remarked that he had no doubts about the matter and that the accused was guilty. There was a happy sequel for the defendant however, for Gallagher appealed the sentence and was released on the grounds that the evidence against him was inconclusive.

A fire one night in May 1888 involved the Springs Road Board when its office in Springston was burnt to the ground. The next morning the Board's clerk was able to follow hoof marks from the scene of the fire to a farm about four miles away leading him to suspect that the fire had been deliberately lit and so a detective was sent from Christchurch to investigate the incident. The detective duly arrived by train and with the clerk set out to confront the suspected arsonist, a farmer who was noted for his violent temper. The suspect refused to co-operate and in the course of a scuffle produced a shot gun and shot the clerk in his legs as he ran to the road.<sup>29</sup>

The detective and the clerk managed to escape and a team of armed policemen, including Constable Cartmill, the Lincoln constable, arrived by the afternoon train to arrest the man who again threatened violence when ordered to surrender "in the name of the Queen". He was eventually subdued, arrested and his gun unloaded; his son was also arrested for obstructing the police. The man's wife was a witness to these events and although somewhat distraught she eventually offered the police team a cup of tea which apparently relieved the tension sufficiently for the arrested men to be led away without the constraint of handcuffs. The offender was



imprisoned for six months after being convicted of wounding with intent, but his son was discharged without conviction.

An event in 1893 was a sad one of child abuse for which a Lincoln couple were prosecuted. At the trial Dr. Cooke stated that he and the local policeman, Constable Walton, had examined an eleven year old girl after a complaint had been made of ill treatment by her step-mother. The undernourished girl was badly bruised about the body and legs and in the doctor's opinion some of these had been caused by the buckle of a belt. It was also said that she had been tied to a bed, whipped and forced to do household chores before she left for school. A witness stated that shouts and screams were heard coming from the house on many occasions. There seemed to be no doubt that the child was the victim of abuse and neglect. The step-mother was sentenced to two months hard labour and the father discharged with a caution to look after his daughter better in the future.<sup>30</sup>

The district has been well served by its policemen who have kept the peace in a generally law abiding district since 1875. Then Constable T. Breen was posted to Lincoln in response to pressure from the Road Board worried about problems brought by the itinerant population of seasonal workers. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century all staff were male, in contrast to the situation today when women work with their male colleagues as front line police officers. The names of the police who were stationed in Lincoln during the 19<sup>th</sup> century are:

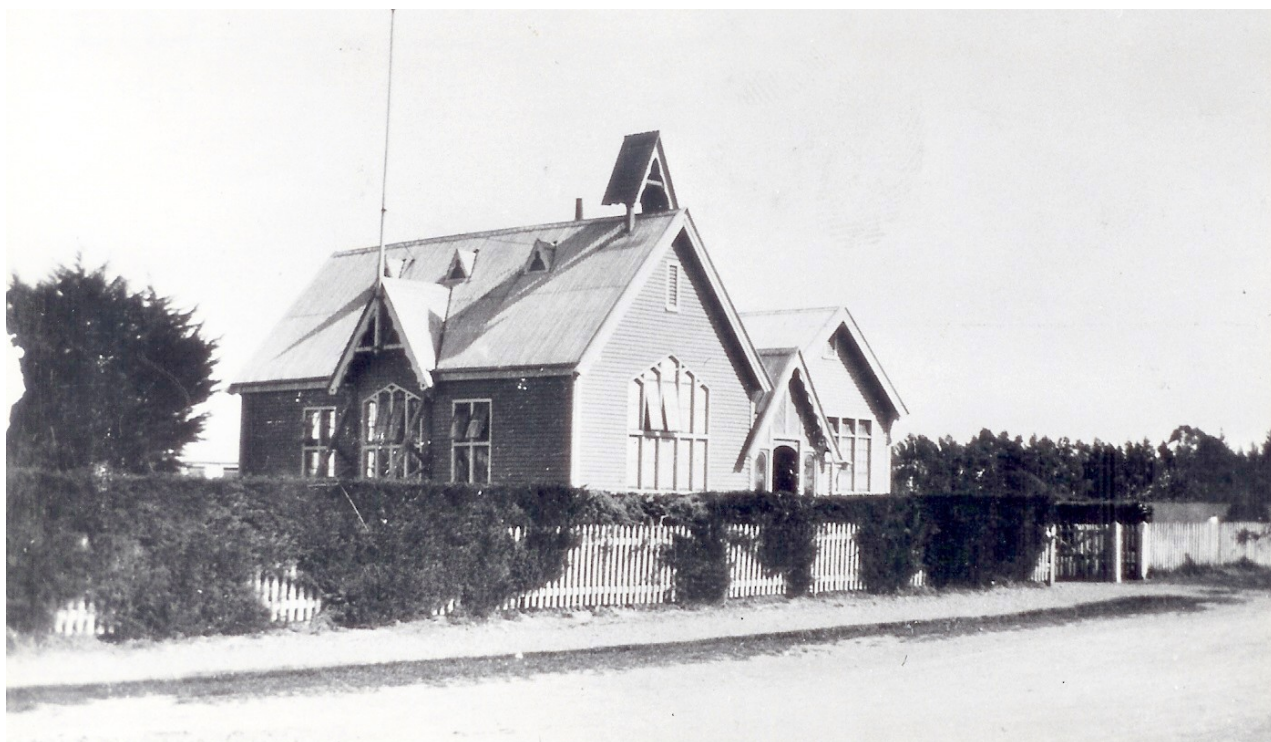
Constable Thomas Breen	1875
Sergeant Robert Wallace	1876
Constable David Cartmill	1877
Constable James Weatherley	1878
Constable David Cartmill	1884
Constable William Watts	1889
Constable John Walton	1892
Constable Thomas Mayne	1900

## Sources and Notes

1. The Press 20 June 1862. See [Papers Past](#).
2. Wm. White to Provincial Secretary 31 June 1862. The railway gauge was to be 5' 3", there would be vans for goods and passengers, and a light locomotive would be used as necessary.
3. White's Little River Tramway Ordinance 1866, Provincial Council Session XXIV No.16.
4. Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute Vol 1 120- 145.
5. J.P. Jameson to Provincial Superintendent 19 May 1869. Archives New Zealand Letter 665 CP104.
6. Journal of Proceedings of Provincial Council 8 October 1869.
7. Weekly Press 26 March 1870.
8. Weekly Press 18 March 1871.
9. Springs Road Board to Provincial Secretary 8 October 1870. Archives New Zealand Letter 617 CP231.
10. Weekly Press 28 June 1871.
11. Weekly Press 5 August 1871.
12. The Press 29 May 1872. See [Papers Past](#).
13. Lyttelton Times. 18 June 1872. See [Papers Past](#).
14. Weekly Press 22 June 1872.
15. New Zealand Gazette 21 March 1873. The line was to begin "at the Racecourse Station of the Great Southern Railway". This is taken to be Hornby station.
16. The Press 24 July 1878. See [Papers Past](#).
17. Ibid. 9 October 1874. See [Papers Past](#).
18. Ibid. 14 July 1875. See [Papers Past](#).
19. Weekly Press 17 August 1872.
20. Ellesmere Guardian. 8 November 1899; and 18 November 1899. See [Papers Past](#).
21. Weekly Press 28 April 1883.
22. New Zealand Post Office ChCh clerical branch 18 December 1968.
23. Government Gazette Province of Canterbury Vol. XIV No. 5
24. The Press 8 October 1879. See [Papers Past](#).
25. Sharing the Challenge 1989 Pp 225-226.

26. Government Gazette Province of Canterbury Vol.XIV No. 3.
27. Lyttelton Times. 28 September 1863. See [Papers Past](#).
28. Ibid. 9 June 1869. See [Papers Past](#).
29. Star 29 May 1888, 4 July 1888, 5 July 1888. See [Papers Past](#)
30. Canterbury Times 27 July 1898, 3 August 1898.

## READING, WRITING AND ARITHMETIC



*34. Primary school on Boundary Road.*

The first settlers in the Lincoln district were well aware of the value of education and in 1858 Mrs Tod made sure that her children, and those of her neighbours, were able to read and write. Education in the Lincoln district was underway before the Lincoln subdivision was a reality! Mrs Tod's efforts were recognised by the provincial government which provided a grant-in-aid through the Presbyterian Church of which the family were adherents. At first the classroom was in the Tod home and when a teacher, Mr Bowie, was appointed he lived with the family. This ended when a Sunday School was built in about 1862; classes and Mr Bowie's quarters were transferred to the new building. On Sundays he would pack up his pots, pans, bedding, and other paraphernalia to make space for the worshipping congregation. This arrangement continued until the Education Commission of 1863, chaired by H.J. Tancred, recommended sweeping changes to the organisation of education in Canterbury, notably the establishment of a Board of Education and the abolition of the existing system controlled by the various Christian denominations<sup>1</sup>.

Accordingly, when the Education Ordinance of 1864 became law, education districts were established, schools were built and the machinery for formal education was put in place. This first ordinance was amended several times until provincial government was abolished in 1876, but the main objective did not change. Children were to be instructed in spelling, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, and history. What did change, much to the frustration of school committees, was the control that the Board exercised over planning and financial matters leading to inevitable bureaucratic delays. Holy Scripture was to be read at the beginning of each day, either by a competent pupil, or a teacher, who after satisfying the Board of Education as to his competence, was also permitted to give religious instruction. That this aspect of teaching was controversial was evident when S.D. Glyde, speaking at a function in his honour at Broadfield, commented that religious teaching in schools had the potential to divide a community<sup>2</sup>.

The Education Ordinance also established that teachers were to be paid a minimum of 100 pounds a year, later increased to 130 pounds a year, for male teachers, and 60 pounds a year for female teachers! The Ordinance also allowed school committees to appoint assistant and pupil teachers and to control use of the schoolroom outside school hours. The committee therefore could allow local groups to use the school room at its discretion and subject to its own requirements.

The Lincoln school was built in 1866 on the corner of Lower Lincoln Road (Birchs Road) and the Lincoln and Coal Tramway Road (Boundary Road) on part of RS2223, acquired by FitzGerald as a Crown grant from his old Springs Run. He incorporated part of this land in his Lincoln subdivision, but sold the rest to farmers Richard Wright and John George Murray, who sold the corner section of one acre on which the school was built to the provincial government for ten shillings.<sup>3</sup> At about the same time Wright and Murray leased just over three acres adjoining the school to the Lincoln Fair Company which were eventually bought by Charles Frank Pyne when he acquired what was left of RS2223. The Fair Company finally bought the three acres from Mr Pyne in 1877<sup>4</sup> and later sold them to Edwin Greaves at auction for 115 pounds. In 1878 Mr Pyne sold his remaining land to James Bell who sold one acre on Boundary Road to the North Canterbury Education Board for five shillings.<sup>5</sup> The Board finally purchased Mr. Greaves' three acres in 1912 so that most of the original RS2223 outside the original Lincoln subdivision was in the hands of the Board<sup>6</sup> and is now the site for both the primary and the secondary schools.

As already mentioned, Mrs Tod taught in her school until Mr Bowie, brought from England by the Tods, took over, but when the new school was established he was replaced by Robert Ferguson who stayed for about a year. It is recorded in the Lincoln School souvenir booklet of 1966 that this popular and energetic teacher dug a well for the school in his spare time. It is a tribute to his work that the well is still in existence although secured against the curiosity of the school children!

In 1868 Howard Charles Jacobson replaced Mr Ferguson. During his time at Lincoln the school committee appointed a pupil teacher, Miss Findlay, and a part time sewing mistress. Mr Jacobson was an active man, and besides his teaching duties he was Postmaster, Poundkeeper, auditor for the Farmers' Club, treasurer of the Cricket Club, as well as occasionally writing for The Press. In 1874 he took up an appointment with the paper for a few years before moving to Ashburton where he and a business partner set up the Ashburton Guardian. This was an unsuccessful venture, for the partners could not agree, and by 1881 he was living in Akaroa where he established the Akaroa Mail. There he developed an interest in conservation and according to the Press obituary<sup>7</sup> *it was largely through his efforts that many bits of choice Peninsula bush were saved from the axe and the torch when the hillsides were being cleared for further settlement*. He is remembered for his book "Tales of Banks Peninsula".

Following Mr Jacobson's resignation the committee asked the Board of Education to approve the appointment of Robert Soundy, but because he was single it was reluctant to do so<sup>8</sup>. However, the Board was willing to appoint him on a temporary basis, but not surprisingly Mr Soundy refused to take up this offer and so a Miss Percy, assisted by Mrs Moffat the miller's wife, was put in charge until a more suitable replacement could be found. Eventually, however, the Board relented and Mr Soundy took over the running of the school with the assistance of Miss Percy who resigned shortly afterwards to be replaced by Miss Nellie Fee. Miss Fee was paid 60 pounds per annum with an additional 15 pounds paid as a "lodging allowance". Mr Soundy resigned in 1876 to take up a position in Hokitika and was replaced by George Bishop who relinquished his position in 1881, probably because of ill health.

When Miss Fee resigned in 1878 Miss Pannett was a pupil teacher, but hard times were beginning to bite and staff numbers were not increased despite the growing roll. The school committee argued that this was neither good for the 84 pupils in Standards 1 – 6, nor for the one teacher responsible for them. The Board accepted the committee's concern and appointed Miss



Mary Gordon as the much needed assistant teacher. At her farewell Miss Fee was presented with an inlaid walnut writing desk, a small jewellery case, and an address of appreciation read by one of the senior girls<sup>9</sup>. As reported in The Press it reads: *Dear Miss Fee – We the undersigned, on behalf of the whole of the children attending Lincoln School, beg to express to you our sincere regret that you are about to sever your connection with us as our school teacher. We desire to assure you that during the time you have been amongst us we have felt great affection and esteem toward you, and that you have by painstaking and diligent labor endeavoured to promote our education and to set before us an excellent example for imitation. We beg, therefore, that you will kindly accept the accompanying testimonial of our esteem and gratitude, as but an humble expression of our feelings, and wishing you much joy in the future years with a continuation of health and happiness, we subscribe ourselves yours very affectionately.* Although Miss Fee was present, Mr Bishop thanked the assembled children and parents on her behalf for the presentation, spoke of her regret at leaving, and said that she “would long remember the happy days she had spent with them”.

In 1880 Mr Bishop was ill for so long that it was necessary to bring in a relieving teacher. However, the following year both Mr Bishop and Miss Pannett, who by then was an assistant infant mistress, resigned. Mr Bishop, who was to take up a position in Southbridge, was honoured at a farewell dinner in the Perthshire Arms where he was presented with a generous gift of 20 sovereigns. For some reason, Miss Pannett’s resignation was received with so much consternation that a committee member was asked to interview her on the matter. The interview apparently satisfied the committee member for she too, enjoyed a farewell function one afternoon at the end of the school day where she received a Davis Vertical Feed sewing machine. She thanked the gathering herself and after she was honoured with three hearty cheers, the function ended with a lolly scramble for the children<sup>10</sup>.

By the time Mr Bishop resigned the school roll had risen to 153. His position was filled for a year by John Hook and then in 1883 by W. A. Banks who was to remain at Lincoln until the closing years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Besides his role as headmaster Mr. Banks was a keen member of the local rifle club, and there is a report that in 1897 he was granted six months leave to travel to England in order to compete at Bisley as a member of the New Zealand rifle team. Because of his long service in teaching the Education Board granted him one month’s salary towards his costs. During

his tenure there was a period when roll and staff numbers fluctuated and because of the long depression salaries were reduced.

Of the staff who taught under Mr Banks, Sophia Elizabeth Haughton is one of the most interesting. She began her teaching career in Lincoln in 1887, after a number of teaching positions in Christchurch, and retired twenty years<sup>11</sup> later during Arthur Cookson's tenure as headmaster and Banks' successor. According to the souvenir booklet it was believed that she had come to New Zealand with Sir John Cracroft-Wilson's household in 1859, and because of this, and her dark complexion, some thought that she was of Indian extraction. Her death certificate records that she was born in London in 1840, to Sophia and John Curtis, a doctor, and she died in Lincoln in 1927 at the age of 87. It is further recorded that she had lived in New Zealand for 65 years, and so had come to New Zealand in about 1862, at least three years after Sir John finally settled in Christchurch. A year after arriving in New Zealand she is said to have married Francis Haughton in Wellington, but no record of the event has been found, and shortly afterwards the couple apparently moved to Lyttelton where their daughter Ada was born. Besides her job as school teacher she used her musical talents to act as accompanist for the local choral society and performed at various functions, including fund raising concerts for the Lincoln library. Nothing is known of her husband and it is assumed that she came to Lincoln with her daughter Ada as a widow. Given her London background it seems unlikely that she came to New Zealand with Sir John Cracroft-Wilson but until more information comes to hand there remains some uncertainty about this. For some time the Haughtons, mother and daughter, lived in the pound house built when the school playground belonged to the Lincoln Fair Company, but later moved to a house in Robert Street and then in her retirement lived in a small cottage on a section now designated as 4 Lyttelton Street. She and her daughter Ada were locally active in the suffrage movement, and with their friends would have rejoiced when the franchise bill was finally passed in 1893.

As previously mentioned, the Education Ordinances gave school committees the right to exercise control of the school outside school hours and thus could allow use of the school room to any worthy group, an especially important role when the village had few suitable meeting places. Fundraising was a common event in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as it still is, and the committee was always glad to help a good cause. In 1878, for example, the Presbyterians were permitted to use the room for a soirée and bazaar and Mrs Durham, the doctor's wife, was given use of the room for a

concert.<sup>12</sup> The inaugural meetings of the Druids and Masonic Lodges were also held in the schoolroom,<sup>13</sup> following the committee's decision in 1878 to allow its use as a lodge room "by some unspecified benefit society to be established in Lincoln". However, neither the Druids nor the Masons lodges were formed until about two years later.<sup>14</sup>

Other groups also used the school rooms for various activities. The cricket club held concerts and dances there on several occasions in order to raise funds and in accordance with the committee's requirements guaranteed that the rooms would be restored to their usual order on the following day.

In 1879 scripture lessons were held in the school room for half an hour before lessons and the Revd. Blake was permitted to use the school room for half an hour over several Sundays, a practice which in the end extended into the next year. In order to attend, children were required to have their parents' permission in writing. Visiting entertainers and salesmen also used the room from time to time. A Mr Bowron, for example, used the room to extol the advantages of joining the Australasian Mutual Provident Society and a Mr Raymond entertained one evening with a diorama.

Dancing classes were also held in the school room and while these were usually conducted in an orderly manner, the actions of one teacher, a Mr Taylor, also a member of the school committee, caused considerable scandal. He used the school one evening without authority by instructing his daughter to lock the school and take home the keys in readiness for the evening dancing class. During the evening the class took over the large school room and used it for refreshments. Although Mr Taylor apologised for this outrage, the committee, including Messrs Herrick, Wolfe, Meyenberg and the culprit, decided that the dancing classes would be cancelled for the rest of the year.<sup>15</sup>

The committee had to persuade some parents that although the Education Act of 1877 provided a free education for their children, this did not extend to the free issue of books and other material. The reluctance to pay for these was widespread and in July 1878 the Education Board prosecuted an individual who was ordered to pay for his children's books and court costs as well. This action encouraged the Lincoln school committee to threaten two householders with legal action unless they made good their arrears in book payments, presumably with the desired result.<sup>16</sup> A more pressing problem was that of ensuring that children attended classes, especially

when seasonal work on the farm called for extra hands. To meet this problem the committee asked the headmaster for regular updates on the situation in order to invoke relevant sections of the Education Act when necessary. Despite these matters the school continued to flourish and by the time Mr Banks resigned in 1896 the roll stood at about 130.

For most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the school committee decided on the timing of the school holidays. One way the committee could tackle absenteeism during harvest was to declare a holiday. So on some occasions the school was closed for about one month in January and February for the harvest holiday. The term holidays were also decided by the committee: in 1880 the spring holiday was scheduled for ten days in September, the Anniversary Day holiday was scheduled for December 16, and the school was to close for a two week Christmas holiday from December 25. Sometimes the school was closed for other reasons. For example, when Mr Banks was ill a holiday was called until a relief teacher was brought in to keep the school running.

In 1898 Mr Cookson was appointed to replace Mr Banks. During his twenty year tenure there were major changes including the school's transition to a District High School in 1903. He would have watched its gradual decline, until a year after he retired in 1919 the secondary department closed with a roll of only eleven students. The history of these 20<sup>th</sup> century years can be found in the two publications (see bibliography) celebrating the primary and the secondary schools. From the small beginnings in the Tod's home in 1858 education in Lincoln has come a long way. Since the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century local children have been able to attend quality education facilities from pre-school, through primary and secondary schools, to a tertiary education at Lincoln University. Not all citizens of small towns are so fortunate!



35. Lincoln Primary School standards three, four, five and six.

#### Sources and notes

1. Gazette, Province of Canterbury 1863 Vol. X p197.
2. The Press 6 July 1871. See [Papers Past](#).
3. Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) 141D 58.
4. LINZ 85D 102.
5. Ibid 94D 17.
6. Ibid 179D 499.
7. The Press 25 April 1910. See [Papers Past](#).
8. Ibid 7 July 1874, 28 July 1874, 18 August 1874. See [Papers Past](#).
9. Ibid 1 August 1878. See [Papers Past](#).
10. Lyttelton Times. 21 November 1881. See [Papers Past](#).
11. Star 29 August 1906. See [Papers Past](#)
12. The Press 22 August 1878, 25 September 1878. See [Papers Past](#).

13. Ibid 1 August 1878, 25 July 1878. See [Papers Past](#).
14. Ibid 8 July 1880, 30 January 1880. See [Papers Past](#).
15. Ibid 22 May 1879. See [Papers Past](#).
16. Ibid 31 May 1878. See [Papers Past](#).



## THEY CAME WITH FAITH

For many early settlers the Christian faith was an important part of their lives. At first there were no churches so whenever possible services were held in their homes, a practice common to all denominations. From the earliest times FitzGerald hosted Church of England services at “The Springs” and from 1858 a service was held there each week by Percy Cox, FitzGerald’s partner, who managed the run during the latter’s absence in England. In that year Presbyterians William and Mary Tod began a school, including a Sunday school, at their farm on the outskirts of the future Lincoln which was used until the first church was built several years later. At about the same time Patrick Henley, a devout Roman Catholic, settled at New Headford, his farm on Shands Track, and made his home available for Mass whenever a priest was in the neighbourhood. The Methodists (Wesleyans) and the Baptists too, were early in the district and like other denominations held services in their homes until churches could be built. The first Methodist service held near Lincoln was at The Springs homestead in April 1864 following its purchase by J. Roberts. A year later, in July 1865, a church was built at Prebbleton. The Springs preaching station and evening services held at Harmony Villa, W. Lawry’s home at Springston, continued until the first Methodist church opened a year later.



*36. The Springs Homestead - location of the first Methodist service held in April 1864.*

## The Church of England

The first church in the district was the Anglican Church of All Saints built in 1864 on land donated by Richard Bethell from his farm near Burnham and now part of Lincoln University's Ashley Dene farm. Mr. Bethell also donated land for a cemetery adjacent to the church and although not now used it is kept in a reasonably tidy state by grazing stock.<sup>1</sup> The church, designed by Bishop Harper, was built when the parochial district of Burnham, including Burnham, Springston, Lincoln, Greenpark, Selwyn, Dunsandel, Courtenay and Greendale, was separated from the Mission District of the Southern Station. The church was built to accommodate 90 people, but more than 100 from the still sparsely populated district crowded in for the first service; they would have been proud that now there was a permanent home for worship.



*37. St. Stephen's Anglican Church corner of James Street and Fitz Place.*

The following year a vicarage, built adjacent to the church, was occupied until 1875 when the incumbent curate, the Revd. Harry Stocker, was advised to leave because of his wife's health. The need to relocate the Stockers resulted in the decision to rent a house in Lincoln from Mr Pyne who was not only agreeable to let it for a year, but was also willing to paint it and to build a stable and



a coach house for the Stockers' convenience. Immediate possession was guaranteed.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless it was clear that a permanent home was necessary, and after debating various options a handsome vicarage was built at Lincoln on a five acre section on Ellesmere Junction Road (now The Gables on Gerald St.) for 100 pounds. The Stockers moved in during August 1876 and it continued in use as a vicarage until 1937 when it was sold because of its age and general lack of "modern facilities". A house was then rented from the Rhodes family in Tai Tapu until 1956 when the present vicarage on the corner of Leinster Terrace and Edward Street was built on land set aside as a school reserve in the first subdivision.<sup>3</sup>



*39. The Gables Vicarage on Gerald Street*

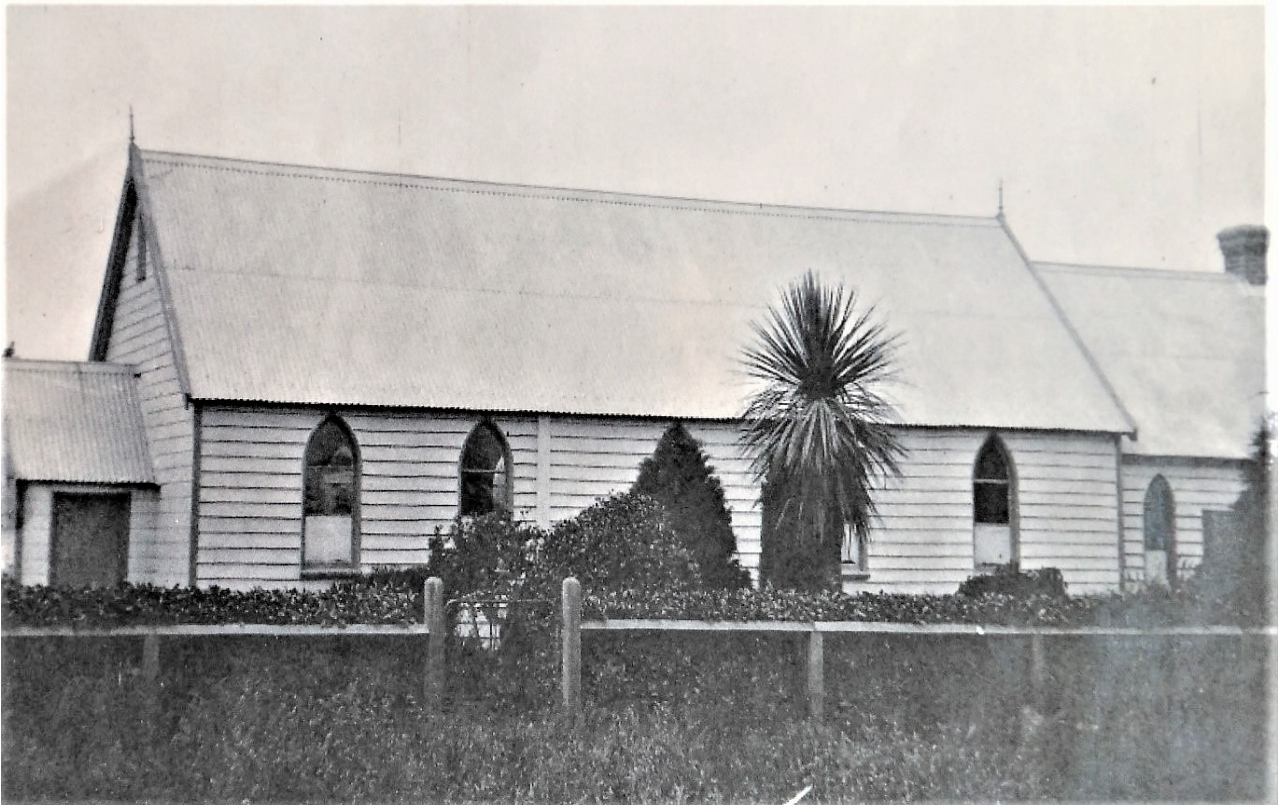
Although the vicarage was now in Lincoln, the township was still without a church, the nearest being St Mary's at Springston, and St. Paul's at Tai Tapu, opened in 1875 and 1876 respectively. However, services were held in the village from 1869 when the Revd. F. Pember took a service once a month in the Lincoln school room and in that same year the Revd. A.P. O'Callaghan offered a service each week at his Springs farm until St. Stephen's was built.<sup>4</sup> He was assisted by A.C. Knight of "Newlands" farm, Ladbrooks, who was the local representative on the Provincial Council.

It was clearly unsatisfactory that there was no Anglican church at Lincoln. To resolve the difficulty a meeting of local Anglicans in December 1876 decided to build a church even although it was clear that financial help could not be expected from the diocese.<sup>5</sup> The building, designed by B.W. Mountfort, was built by the Grieg Brothers at a cost of 407 pounds exclusive of furniture. It was opened on 26 August 1877 by Bishop Harper, assisted by the Revds. Harry Stocker and A.P. O'Callaghan and despite heavy rain the church was filled for the occasion. The Lincoln choir, joined by members of the Springston and Tai Tapu churches, sang the processional hymn as the Bishop entered the church. The church was consecrated two years later, when the building was mostly clear of debt, at a service attended by Harry Stocker, who earlier had been appointed to a charge at Akaroa, and by clergy from neighbouring churches. A Sunday School was opened soon afterwards with 35 students who formerly had been enrolled with the Unsectarian Sunday School at the Presbyterian church. The first teachers were The Revd. and Mrs. O'Callaghan, G. Lipscombe, W.A. Murray, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Stocker.<sup>6</sup> The Lyttelton Times commented that the building itself was more appealing than its design, a reflection perhaps of the quality of the wood used which came from Little River mills. However, the reporter was certain that it would not be long before the church, built to seat 80, would be too small.<sup>7</sup>

This proved to be prophetic, for nine years later the building was enlarged by adding transepts to increase its capacity to 105 people.<sup>8</sup> Mountfort was commissioned to design the additions and the contract for the building was let to Messrs Forbes for 226 pounds to which had to be added the cost of extra seating. The opening took place on the morning of 25 March 1886. It was followed with luncheon and in the evening with a harvest festival service for which extra seating was borrowed from the Presbyterians. There was little subsequent change until 1959 when the original weatherboard was covered with roughcast. This was significant, for it resulted in so much structural decay that thirty years later it was realised that either the church had to be demolished or extensive renovations had to be carried out. After much debate the latter option was adopted with such a stunning result that today St. Stephens can be regarded as the jewel in Lincoln's crown!

## The Baptists

Baptists came to Lincoln early and like all other denominations held services in their homes until they could build a church. On Sunday, 25 February, 1877, a chapel designed for 70 persons and erected on the corner of Gerald and Maurice Streets by adherents of the Baptist Church in and around the Lincoln, was opened by the Rev C. Dallaston who officiated during afternoon and evening ceremonies. The next day a tea meeting attracted more than two hundred people to the meal and the meeting which followed was attended by at least another hundred. There were several speeches and these were interspersed with hymns and anthems sung by the Lincoln Presbyterian choir who agreed to take part.<sup>9</sup> The church was debt free within a year and at the first anniversary tea meeting it was decided that the proceeds from the day, amounting to 16 pounds 5 shillings would go towards building a vestry and a shelter for horses.



*38. Baptist Chapel*





*39. Lincoln Baptist Church assembled for visit of Reverend Joseph Doke of Oxford Terrace Baptist Church (1894-1901), Christchurch, seated front on left next to lady in white. Courtesy of Selwyn District Council.*

The Baptist congregation continued to flourish as demonstrated by their annual anniversary tea meetings. A home for the incumbent pastor was built next to the chapel in 1882, but this was replaced by a modern building on Maurice Street in the early 1990's.<sup>10</sup> The chapel continued to be used well into the second half of the 20th century but fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1998. Sometime earlier the growing congregation forced the transfer of Sunday services to the community centre on the opposite side of the road, although for a brief period the High School hall was used for that purpose. In 2006 the property was sold and developed as the Vale shopping centre. Baptist headquarters then moved to Birchs Road where a new complex for worship and community activity was opened in 2011.



## The Presbyterians

William and Mary Tod came to live in the district in 1858 when William took up 200 acres, designated Rural Section 1483, as a Crown Grant and formerly part of Springs Run. The Tod house and farm buildings were located on the farm until recently known as Rosemerryn on the eastern outskirts of Lincoln and now under development as a residential area. The Tods knew the value of education and set aside a room in their home for use as a school and doubtless also for church services.

Although the first Presbyterian Church in the district was built at Prebbleton, then headquarters for the local Presbyterian community, the Lincoln congregation was the first to build a church in the township. It was built on two acres of land designated as “Scotch Reserve” (Fig. a) and donated by FitzGerald from Rural Section 1532 which he bought about a year after the Lincoln subdivision. In 1864 the two acres were vested in three church trustees. They were the Revd. Charles Fraser of St. Andrew’s parish in Christchurch of which Lincoln was a part, and two farmers, William Tod and Richard Wright. When the church was built in 1866 the parish stretched from Prebbleton, still local headquarters, to Southbridge, and was under the charge of the Revd. John Campbell, later the first rector of Christchurch Boys’ High School.<sup>11</sup> At that time the manse and church in Prebbleton were next to the Presbyterian cemetery now known as Prebbleton cemetery.

Although well used and kept in good repair, the Lincoln church and its surroundings must have looked untidy and the building itself was probably cold in winter for the Revd. Campbell reported that it “required lining and painting, and the ground wanted fencing and planting”.<sup>12</sup> These remarks prompted quick action for in July the finance committee decided to line the church and to raise money for improving the grounds. There were to be new posts and gates and there were about 10 chains of fencing to be erected. However, like many churches built around this time it was soon too small for the growing congregation and at a meeting on 8 October 1878 a committee was set up to explore the idea of selling the existing building and erecting a new church on the same site.



*40. Presbyterian Church, now Union Church, James Street and East Belt.*

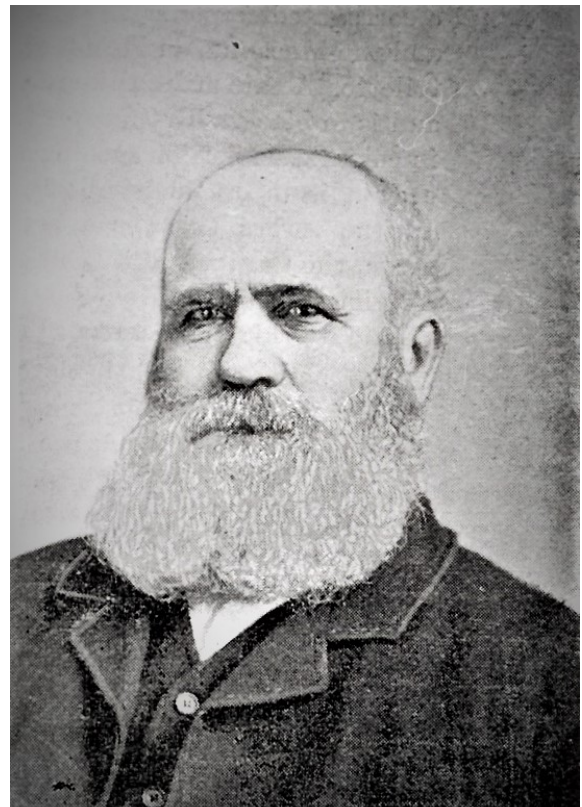
Plans were completed in 1881. The church was designed to accommodate 200 people at an estimated cost of 747 pounds 12 shillings and 6 pence for the building, furniture and fittings; the contract was let to local builder D. W. Bartram. Finally, on December 23, the foundation stone was laid by Dr Thomas Guthrie, the local doctor, who in declaring it “well and truly laid” thanked the gathering for the honour of doing so, and referred “to the hopeful state of the congregation and the catholic character of the services”.<sup>13</sup> During the ceremony copies of the Lyttelton Times, The Press, the New Zealand Presbyterian News, and the Christian Record were placed under the stone and a silver trowel was presented to Dr Guthrie in honour of the occasion and as an indication of his standing in the local community. Part of the day’s programme is reproduced on page 8 of the parish history “The First Hundred Years”. Six months later the opening services were conducted by the Rev. J. Elmslie. The weather was fine, and the church, full in the morning, was crowded for the evening service; the sermons for the day reflected on the essentials of a prosperous congregation

in a “living, loving, working Church”.<sup>14</sup> The celebrations continued during the week and included a soiree and a public meeting at which parishioners heard about the cost of the new church and listened to a forceful lecture on the topic of temperance. The building still stands and although maintenance has sometimes been a concern it is solidly built and should remain as a place of worship for many years to come. The old church was not sold, but instead was used as the Sunday school until it was sold in 1964 and moved to make way for the present manse.

There was growing concern about the state of the Prebbleton manse and in 1887 the parish decided that a new manse should be located at Lincoln. It is probable too, that the demographics of the district had changed and that most of the congregation lived closer to Lincoln than to Prebbleton. An architect was engaged, plans were drawn up, and in 1888 tenders were called for the new manse. The building, now the parish office and Sunday school, was completed the following year and since then parish headquarters have been based at Lincoln. In 1972 the parish united with the Methodists of the Springston circuit to form a Union Church, the ministers of which are alternately Methodist and Presbyterian.

### The Methodists

Although there has never been a Methodist church in Lincoln the Methodist presence in the district has been an important one. As early as 1864 J. Roberts, Methodist and then owner of the Springs, made his home available for services in common with all other denominations. Methodists realised that the rapidly increasing population of the 1860's demanded the building of a church and in January 1866 moves were made for a church on the corner of Shands Track and Boundary Road. When the vendor of the site withdrew his offer at the last minute, James Gammack, prominent local farmer and active in the Lincoln Farmers' Club and the Lincoln Fair Company, immediately offered land at Springston. The church was soon built and the first



*41. James Gammack, prominent local farmer.*

service, conducted by the Revd T. Buddle, was held there on 29 July 1866.<sup>15</sup> It is said that one of the founders of Methodism in the district, W. Lawry, suggested that the church should be called "Springston", a name which was also applied to the settlement then being established<sup>16</sup>. Springston became the centre for Methodism in the district and remained so until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Further churches were soon built, in Tai Tapu and in Broadfield, and although these were not far from Lincoln they were not as close as that originally planned on Shands Track. Members of all three churches were involved in one way or another with matters of interest to Lincoln residents. H.W. Peryman of Tai Tapu, like Mr. Gammack, was a farmer of wide interests who played a major role in the development of the district, and J.J. Herrick, also of Tai Tapu and a farmer, ran the mail coach from Christchurch to Lincoln via Tai Tapu, and for a time was an active member of the school committee. Samuel Early, a member of the Broadfield church, was a builder who in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century owned the Lincoln mill as well as several sections in the village. In 1873 he helped build the Broadfield church on the western corner of Shands Road and Robinsons Road and when it needed urgent renovation in 1881 - it was said to rock a good deal in the nor'-westers - he and a Mr. Aitken did so free of charge. They not only replaced the roof and the windows and repaired the walls, but they also built a rostrum and a desk from the old timber. This labour of love so impressed members of the Broadfield congregation that they presented Mr. Early with an illuminated address as a mark of appreciation.<sup>17</sup> The church was finally demolished about thirty years ago and replaced by the house known as Tullymore. The Tai Tapu church still stands although it no longer serves its original purpose and was converted into a residence about twenty years ago. It was not long before the first church at Springston was too small and so in September, 1872 work on a new building commenced. Seven months later in April 1873 the new building was ready at a cost of 800 pounds with the old church joined to the new building for use as a Sunday school. The parsonage is all that remains of the Methodist buildings in Springston although the home built by Walter Lawry and named Harmony Villa still stands close to the corner of Ellesmere Junction Road and Waterholes Road.

## The Roman Catholics

The Roman Catholic presence in the Lincoln district began at Shands Track when Patrick Henley settled his family there on 17 March 1862, his birthday, and the feast day of his patron saint. There he built his home on the south-east corner of Boundary Road and Shands Track which he made available for Mass until in January 1871 a small church was built at the opposite corner on land he had gifted to the Church. Masses were celebrated by Father Jean Claude Chervier of the Society of Mary who had arrived in Canterbury from France in April 1861 to assist in the widespread Canterbury area. When Christchurch became a parish in its own right in 1871 Fr. Chervier was appointed priest of a country parish stretching from the Conway River in the north to the Rangitata River in the south. He established his headquarters at Shands Track which began to be known as the Catholic Mission of new Headford.

On 1 January 1871 the new church was ready for the first Mass. This was a momentous day for the local Roman Catholic community and fittingly celebrated with help from members of the choir from the Pro-cathedral in Barbadoes Street and friends from Christchurch, Leeston and elsewhere. As noted by the Weekly Press<sup>18</sup> the *Catholics of Shands Road deserved great praise for the manner in which they have exerted themselves in collecting funds for the erection of their church, which we understand, is quite free from debt.* A presbytery was built in that same year on the land given by Patrick Henley who donated a total of five acres for church purposes. Building materials for the presbytery were carried from Christchurch by parishioners in their carts and drays. It was home for the parish priest until a new presbytery was built in Lincoln in 1908 by Fr Richards on land bought some ten years earlier.





*42. Roman Catholic Church of the Reparation, with priest and parishioner on the corner of Boundary Road and Shand's Road. The first church for a short time known as St. Stephen's can be seen in background.*

The population of the new parish continued to increase and by 1878 the church on Shand's Track, sometimes known as St. Stephen's, like every other church in the district, was soon too small. Accordingly in 1880 it was replaced with a larger, more imposing structure on the same site. The new church, the Church of the Reparation, was opened by Bishop Moran of Dunedin in September 1880, and despite the difficult economic conditions at the time, the building was free of debt within two years, a tribute to the generosity of the parishioners.<sup>19</sup> The Church of the Reparation was to serve the parish, with the later addition of a tower, until it was replaced in 1957, by St Patrick's at Lincoln.





*43. Roman Catholic Church of the Reparation after 1910.*

Father Chervier also established a school at New Headford.<sup>20</sup> This was the only church school in the huge parish and although it was realised that more were needed, their establishment was constrained by the lack of resources. The school was therefore important to the Roman Catholic community and boarders came from as far afield as Waimate and Rangiora. At first lessons were held in the presbytery which was large enough to accommodate the boarders, but when the new church was built the first building became the school. It flourished for a number of years, but eventually was unable to compete with the better funded secular schools which for many families offered an education closer to home. The school struggled on into the twentieth century; there were 70 pupils attending during the 1870's, in 1895 there were 25 pupils of which one was a Protestant<sup>21</sup> said to be of irregular attendance, and by 1902 the roll had fallen to 18 children, three of whom were Protestants. By 1905 the school closed.

Teacher vacancies were advertised in *The Tablet*, and doubtless elsewhere, and it is noted that there seemed to exist a network which helped steer suitable people to vacant positions. Thus Kate McLachlan, teaching in Mosgiel, was informed by Fr. Ryan of Dunedin, that his uncle Fr. Foley of Lincoln, was anxious to appoint a teacher to the Lincoln school. Kate applied, and received the

following from Fr. Foley dated April 22 1898: *My dear Miss McLachlan, I have much pleasure to inform you that at a meeting of the school committee last night it was decided that I invite you to come and take up your duty of teacher on Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. I shall be pleased to hear from if you can be there by that date.*

Kate came, began teaching, and evidently fitted into her new environment for she married Jack, one of Patrick Henley's sons and lived in the Lincoln district for the rest of her life.

Father Chervier moved to Leeston, but continued to serve the Church of the Reparation until Father James Foley was appointed priest in 1892. Although by now the parish was much smaller and easier to manage it was clear that decisions had to be made regarding parish headquarters, especially because the presbytery was now in a dilapidated state. Accordingly Bishop Grimes of the recently formed diocese of Christchurch, instructed Fr Foley to buy four acres of land on the outskirts of Lincoln, for which he paid 240 pounds. This was a more central site and close to the railway, but Father Foley was asked to keep news of the purchase to himself for there was no need to let Mr. Henley, a generous contributor to the Church, know that the parish base would eventually move to Lincoln! This was to happen in the early days of the 20th century and is beyond the scope of this account, but it is noted that in 1899 Fr. Foley was asked to conduct a mission in the Chatham Islands and that he did not return to Lincoln at its conclusion. Father Robert Richards was appointed parish priest in 1900 as its first secular priest and the parish ended its long association with the Society of Mary. Much to the chagrin of Patrick Henley, Father Richards built a presbytery at Lincoln in 1908, and this became home for parish priests until in 1998 it was replaced on the same site.

The small and scattered population living in the district in the early days relied on each other for support and so there appears to have been little, if any, of the sectarian strife which they knew from their homeland. However, some did hold strong opinions such as that expressed when the new church was reported to be debt free in a very short period of time. According to this report<sup>22</sup> *the district was a hotbed of Wesleyanism* before the arrival of Father Chervier, but this was not now the case *for the small building which existed twelve years ago for Wesleyans is, as it was not then, sufficiently commodious for its 'habitués', whilst the Catholics have reared up churches and schools within the district.* This is an extraordinary statement, for by then Springston was the headquarters of a flourishing Methodist Circuit with churches at Springston, Broadfield,

Greenpark, and Tai Tapu, and most had been enlarged to cater for their growing number of adherents. On the other hand, a Press report was much more positive when describing the spirit of co-operation which existed between the denominations when it came to teaching the young at the Broadfield Methodist Sunday School. According to The Press not all the teachers were Methodist, but this did not affect their attitudes towards the students whose welfare was paramount.

### **The Unsectarian Sunday School**

Like the Roman Catholics, the Wesleyans preferred to control the religious education of their children, but the Presbyterians, the Anglicans, and the Baptists worked together to run what was generally called the Unsectarian Sunday School. Many of the early settlers like the Baptist Thomas Avis Pannett, brought the English tradition of the Sunday School Movement with them. This had its origins in northern England in the late 18th century when Robert Raikes established a school to teach underprivileged children to read and to instruct them in the catechism and thus provide them with some education as well as helping to keep them off the streets. As better opportunities for education became available the Sunday School movement became more and more focused on religious teaching until eventually this was its only function.

It has already been mentioned that the first school in Lincoln was run by Mrs Tod at her home, before the Lincoln subdivision. She taught secular and religious subjects and the school was open to any child whose parents cared to use it. It was not long before it was moved to a purpose built schoolroom near the present Union Church which was presided over by Mr Bowie, a paid teacher, who also used the building as his home, but which on Sundays served as a Sunday school and a church. How long this arrangement continued is uncertain, but on 28 September, 1868, the Minutes of the Church, Congregational, and Finance Committee of the Lincoln Presbyterian Church records its resolution that a Sabbath School be commenced in the church and that T.A. Pannett, a member of the committee, be its Superintendent. This was a good choice for Pannett, a devout Baptist, had been associated with Sunday Schools for most of his adult life.

At the annual meeting a year later Mr. Pannett was able to report that the Sunday School was well established with a roll of about 30 pupils, a good result considering the short time that the school had been open.<sup>23</sup> At this meeting tea was provided for the children by friends, teachers,

ladies and by the bachelors of the parish. After some speeches the Presbyterian choir performed and the gathering then adjourned to the schoolroom where entertainment was presided over by the Revd. Charles Fraser.

These anniversary tea meetings, a feature for many years, were usually a great social occasion. The children often entertained with songs and recitations and their efforts were usually complemented by anthems sung by the choir. Thus, at one tea meeting, at which a fee of one shilling was charged for the meal, the programme included hymns, prayers, addresses by visiting clergy, recitations by pupils, e.g. "Destruction of Sennacherib" presented by William Taylor, "Children of Heaven" presented by George Rennie, "City of the Pearl Bright Portal" presented by Annie Dunn, and surprisingly, an address by the controversial Professor Bickerton of Christchurch University College!<sup>24</sup> Sometimes reports and speeches were long-winded and it is not surprising that some the children there to present their items were not a little restless.

The Sunday School was well supported and numbers increased rapidly until in 1876 twelve teachers (7 male and 5 female) catered for 97 pupils (52 boys and 45 girls).<sup>25</sup> The following year there were fewer pupils because, as recorded in the minutes of the Unsectarian Sunday School, nineteen children left to join the Episcopalian Sunday School which began when St. Stephen's was opened.<sup>26</sup> Numbers soon recovered, but they appeared to fluctuate, for there were 85 children on the roll in 1881, but in the following year there were only 68 children being taught. It is difficult to know for how long pupils were enrolled at the school, but some must have attended for many years. The minutes of 4 November 1877, for example, record the decision that Annie Dunn, Maggie McPherson, and Mary Pannett be asked to leave their classes in order to become teachers and that each be given a bible, or if they preferred, some other book, to the value of five shillings.

By the end of 1882 the continued existence of the Sunday School was in doubt. The Presbyterians had formed a Band of Hope and it seems this made it difficult for the school to function, presumably because of space limitations. The committee resolved to consider the matter for a week during which time they would consult with the Reverends Blake and Spencer of the Presbyterian and Baptist churches. A week later the decision was taken to disband the ecumenical Sunday school with both churches taking responsibility for the instruction of their children in the coming year.<sup>27</sup> It was agreed that the books used and funds available were to be equally divided

between the two groups and that “the division be carried out with the manifestation of the best of feeling”.

On the 7 January 1883 the separation became fact and the two new Sunday Schools were opened. During the 14 years of its existence the Unsectarian Sunday School had many ups and downs to contend with. Pupils and teachers were devastated when young George Maber was thrown by a horse and killed, bad weather sometimes drastically affected attendance, and there was the memorable occasion when the school was not opened because the church key had been mislaid. However, there remained the constant drive to teach the young in a spirit of co-operation which ignored the barriers of sectarian differences. Hundreds of children were taught by men and women dedicated to passing on the principles and beliefs which meant so much to them. Outstanding among this group was Thomas Avis Pannett who acted as Superintendent and teacher of the Unsectarian Sunday School from its inception in 1868 until its closure in 1882, and then went on to head the Baptist Sunday School until ill health forced his retirement several years later. It is fitting that a plaque at the Vale shopping complex which opened in 2007, and the site of the Baptist chapel, records his work for the church and for the district. It also acknowledges the work of all those who passed on their values to the young in a spirit of tolerance which meant so much to the health and strength of the district and which was manifest when services were first held in the homes of people who wanted to express their beliefs and their hopes for the future of their new land.

Times have changed and today church affiliations are not as strong as they were when the district was settled in the 1860s. Is it possible that migrants were more reliant upon their church and their fellow adherents for support, as much for social reasons as from religious conviction? As networks developed and interests widened the need for support changed and so for many church affiliation may have become less important. Whether this is true or not, the fact remains that the principles our forebears worked to uphold remain as important now as they were when settlement began.

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## DRUIDS, MASONS AND HIBERNIANS

Three lodges, formed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, played an important role in the lives of many men in Lincoln and the surrounding district. These were the Antient Free and Accepted Masons, the United Ancient Order of Druids, and the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society. There is brief mention of an Orange Lodge seeking permission to use the library soon after it had been built, but there is no record that a lodge was formed in Lincoln.

The Druids and the Hibernians are friendly societies providing benefits for members because of illness, unemployment or bereavement; the Masons too, are concerned for their member's welfare, but their guiding principles are those of integrity, goodwill and charity. This account is only a brief outline of their beginnings in Lincoln and for the most part is based on newspaper reports, and in the case of the Masons, a booklet published by the Lincoln Lodge in about 1962.

### Antient, Free and Accepted Masons

On 8 October 1879 a group of men met at the Prebbleton Hotel to discuss the formation of a Masonic Lodge in the Lincoln area.<sup>1</sup> Those present were members of existing lodges in Christchurch and included at least two, J.C. Revell, Lincoln Station Master, and F.W. East, clerk to the Lincoln Road Board, who were living in the district at the time. Matters moved rapidly and on 28 January 1880 the new Lodge was consecrated in a ceremony held in the Lincoln school room, and was reported in the following terms<sup>2</sup>: *This thriving district was enlivened by the arrival of forty Masonic brethren...it being the day which the Right Worthy Bro. Thompson had fixed for the dedication of a Lodge to be called the Lincoln under the English Constitution.* The Lodge, No. 1918, received its charter from the Grand Lodge of England, the ruling body for Freemasonry in New Zealand at the time. There were nine founding members, and of these A.R. Kirk was installed as the first Master, J.C. Revell Senior Warden, J.W. Anderson Junior Warden, F.W. East Senior Deacon, W.H. Comerford Junior Deacon and H. Chatteris Inner Guard. Representatives of Lodges attending the inaugural ceremony came from Akaroa, Ashburton, Christchurch, Kaiapoi, Lyttelton and Leeston.

## THE LODGE, LINCOLN.

A new Lodge was opened at Lincoln on Wednesday evening last, for the convenience of the residents in this rising district, and it

was attended by a large number of visiting brethren. The Right Worshipful Bro H. Thomson, accompanied by his acting-deputy, Bro John Baylee; Bros Tombs, G.S.W.; Jubal Fleming, A.J.W.; J. A. Bird, A. Chaplain; E. Williams, A.G.S.; and H. Revell, Superintendent of Works, arrived in the township at 7 o'clock, and at once proceeded to the dedication. Amongst those present were representatives from the St Augustine, Canterbury, Robert Burns, Unanimity, Corinthian, Ionic, Kaiapoi, Conyers, Ashburton, Kilwinning and Washington Lodges.

A petition, emanating from nine Master Masons and endorsed by the Canterbury Lodge, having been read, the D.D.G.M. presented a warrant authorising the meetings of the Lodge, and the imposing ceremony of consecration was then by him most impressively performed, the musical arrangements being under the direction of Bro Comerford, who carried them out most effectively. A Board of installed masters, numbering sixteen, having been duly constituted, Bro A. R. Kirk was placed in the chair of King Solomon, and received the congratulations of the brethren.

The following officers were then appointed: Bro J. C. Revel, S.W.; Bro J. W. Anderson, J.W.; Bro F. W. East, S.D.; Bro W. H. Comerford, J.D.; Bro Thomas, I.G.; and Bro A. Bailey, Tyler.

The Secretary, Treasurer, and Organist being unavoidably absent, they will be placed in their positions at the next regular meeting. The W.M. was supported on the dais by the following Worshipful Masters:—H. Hobday, 609; E. Williams, 1048; W. B. Allwright, 604; Smith, 706; Green, Kilwinning, S.O.; Ferguson, Robert Burns, S.C.; G. M'Cormick, Corinthian, I.C.; M'Lachlan, Ionic, E.O.; R. W. Shearman, P.M. Somerset; and Hughes, P.M. Washington.

Three gentlemen were proposed for initiation, and two brethren for affiliation.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies an adjournment was made at 10.30 to the Perthshire Arms, where covers were laid for 43 guests, and ample justice was done to the banquet prepared by host Sluis. The lodge will meet at the schoolroom, Lincoln, on the first Wednesday after the full moon.

*44. Report of a new Lodge opened at Lincoln. Lyttelton Times. 30 January 1880. Courtesy of Papers Past.*

For the first two years meetings were held in the school room, but in April 1882 the Lodge bought a section (Lot 13 Block IV), now 9 Maurice Street, where the local firm of D.W. Bartram and Company build a modest hall for about 200 pounds. These were difficult years and to help make ends meet the hall was let out to other organisations, such as the Druids, and for balls and dances, e.g. a Masonic Ball was held in the building under the patronage of Dr. and Mrs. Westenra and Dr. and Mrs J. Cooke and the "elite" of the district.<sup>3</sup>

Despite efforts to bolster funds the financial situation deteriorated so much that in 1893 Mr. East, a founding member and Past Master, took responsibility for the land and building, a situation which lasted for twenty years until the lodge was in a secure enough position to take control of its property. This original building remained in use until 1956 when the present hall was erected.

The first lodges in New Zealand were formed under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, but it was not long before local Masons were involved in a national discussion regarding separation from England and the establishment of a Grand Lodge of New Zealand working under its own constitution to oversee the order in this country.<sup>4</sup> This hotly debated issue, was supported locally and in 1891 the Lincoln Lodge met for the first time as Lodge No. 33 under the New Zealand Constitution.

The founding members and a few others kept the Lodge alive during the difficult depression years of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when resignations often outnumbered new members. Notable among these was the above mentioned F.W. East and W.G. Jennings, bricklayer, who served the Lodge as a junior officer from the year of his initiation in 1880 until ill health forced his retirement in 1920. The lodge recognised his years of faithful service at a ceremony at which he was presented with a purse of sovereigns.<sup>5</sup>

The movement flourished during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the reverse was the case in the second half when some lodges closed or amalgamated. However, the order remains strong and Lincoln Lodge No. 33 still holds its monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month and its installation meeting in October.

## **The Druids**

In July 1880 a meeting was held in the schoolroom to discuss the possibility of forming a Druid's Lodge in Lincoln.<sup>6</sup> A working committee was set up and shortly afterwards an application for authority to form a lodge in Lincoln was made to the Grand Lodge in Melbourne. This was not long in coming and on 24 August 1880 The Star of Anglesea Lodge No. 110 of the United Ancient Order of Druids was opened by the District President in the Lincoln schoolroom.<sup>7</sup> At this meeting 35 members were initiated and officers for the coming year were elected. These included well known residents such as A.C. Bartram, Henry Meyenberg, Joseph Sluis and the local doctor, Dr. Guthrie, all of whom have been mentioned elsewhere. The Star of Anglesea Lodge prospered from the beginning, doubtless because its role as a benefit society in an era when social services were limited was an obvious advantage.

Druids in New Zealand, like the Masons, needed to control their own affairs, a need understood by the controlling body in Australia. In 1899 representatives of the Australian Grand Lodge

travelled to New Zealand to inaugurate the first Grand Lodge in New Zealand, and afterwards, whilst visiting Christchurch, constituted the District Grand Lodge of Canterbury on 2 December.<sup>8</sup> The offices were filled by members of different lodges and one of these was J. Taylor of The Star of Anglesea.

The following year the Lincoln Lodge marked its tenth anniversary when members, wearing full regalia, were piped through the streets of Lincoln by torchlight, much to the interest and amusement of onlookers who were unused to such a spectacle! Afterwards the celebrations continued with a concert and ball in the Lincoln schoolroom, which according to the Star was a splendid occasion enlivened by song and music provided by locals and by visitors from Christchurch.<sup>9</sup>

Lodge members wanted to meet in their own rooms, but like the Masons they used the schoolroom as an interim measure, and then when the Masonic Hall was built they hired it for their regular meetings and the Town Hall for social functions until it was destroyed by fire. However, in 1883 John Wolfe bought two quarter acre sections on Gerald Street, (Lots 2 and 3 Block I), possibly on behalf of the lodge, but it was not until 1893 that Bartram and Company contracted to build a hall which became the usual venue for many public functions.

The Star of Anglesea Lodge provided its members with financial support as necessary, brotherhood, and the chance to socialise with fellow members at their meetings, concerts, dances and excursions and picnics whenever they could be arranged. They enjoyed convivial contacts with other friendly societies and on one occasion at least, in association with Ethelbert Lodge, Springston, hosted a social evening at Lincoln to which they invited members of other Druids lodges, Oddfellows lodges and the Roman Catholic Hibernian Lodge at New Headford.<sup>10</sup> The evening was enlivened with song, recitations, speeches and toasts and it was hoped that the bonds which existed between members of the different societies would be strengthened by such meetings. The Star of Anglesea flourished well into the 20th century, but as with many other societies went into serious decline in the second half of that century.

The Druids Hall was used by many groups over the years, but maintenance became a continuing burden and in 1931 the building was sold to a local committee whose task it was to renovate the building for use as a public facility.<sup>11</sup> The new facility, the Community Centre served the district

well for 50 years, but now, in the year 2011 a replacement, The Lincoln Event Centre, has been erected by Selwyn District Council on North Belt and an extension of William St.

### The Hibernians

The Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society (H.A.C.B.S.) was firmly established in New Zealand by the time St. Patrick's Lodge, No. 182, based at the Church of the Reparation on Shands Track, was formed in 1882. The origins of this benefit society were in Ballarat, Australia, which merged with two other Australian societies to become the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society. The first New Zealand lodge was formed in Greymouth in 1869 and others were soon established throughout the country catering for the welfare of its members.<sup>12</sup> The Hibernian lodges, like the Druids, provided financial support for members in need. An indication of the role the lodges played in their parishes is found in a New Zealand Tablet report of 10 February 1888 (Papers Past) when Bishop John Grimes arrived as the first Bishop of Christchurch. In an address of welcome Hibernian members addressed the Bishop as follows:<sup>13</sup> *My Lord, We, the officers and brethren of St. Patrick's branch, Christchurch, St. Patrick's branch New Headford, and St. Patrick's branch, Rangiora, of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society, desire with deep veneration and filial love to unite in wishing you, in the beautiful words of our mother tongue, a "Cead Mille Failthe", upon your arrival at the seat of your adopted home. Ours is purely a Catholic Benefit society, and recognised by the laws of this colony, composed for the most part of Roman Catholics of Irish birth or descent, whose object it is to 'cherish the memory of Ireland', to provide the sick and needy members with sustenance and relief, to promote a healthy Catholic spirit amongst the members, attending Holy Communion at regular intervals in conformity with our laws."*

When St. Patrick's Lodge was formed the question of Home Rule for Ireland was a major issue and to further this cause lodges actively supported those who were working towards this objective in Ireland. There are reports in The Tablet of speakers at picnics and other occasions reminding their listeners of the oppressive regime endured by their families and friends back home. Perhaps the memories of their past lives in Ireland and the problems still affecting the country at that time, explains why the Hibernian Lodges were not represented in the procession held in Christchurch to honour Queen Victoria's silver jubilee.<sup>14</sup> However, Hibernians were certainly loyal to their adopted country and worked hard alongside neighbours to develop the necessary infrastructure to build a



healthy and prosperous community.<sup>15</sup> Men who were prominent in St. Patrick's Lodge and in the development of Lincoln and the surrounding district included among their number P. Henley, M.F. Ryan, P. Ryan, and J. Doherty. The aims of the organisation were naturally well supported by the clergy for many of whom Ireland was "Home".

Like many societies St. Patrick's Lodge sometimes found it difficult to recruit members and on more than one occasion a speaker would encourage the young men of the parish to join. Not only would it be to their benefit, but membership would also provide the lodge with young and energetic recruits who would become leaders in the future. The Lodge not only organised dinners, picnics and dances for members and their families, but also supported the Roman Catholic school based at the Church of the Reparation at Shands Track.

The Hibernians at Shands Track prospered for many years, but by the late 20<sup>th</sup> century the continuing evolution of our social services diminished the need for friendly societies and membership fell dramatically. The Lincoln Hibernians closed their lodge in 1971, and although the organisation still functions in New Zealand, the number of lodges, as with the Masons and the Druids, is very much reduced, either through closure or amalgamation.

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## PLAYING THE GAME

Lincoln pioneers worked hard to establish their farms and businesses, but took what opportunity they could to relax either on the sports field or by involvement in various social occasions such as dances, concerts or tea meetings. These last were generally associated with their churches, and often to provide a treat for their children. The first organised sports to be played in the district were racing and cricket, whereas others, such as rugby football, were not played locally in Lincoln at the club level until early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century although the game was played by teams from Canterbury Agricultural College.

### Cricket

Cricket was being played in Christchurch within a year of settlement and as early as 1864 matches were played against a visiting English team in Hagley Park. It is no surprise then, that the first report of a sport directly involving people in Lincoln is of a cricket match played against “the Prebbleton cum Templeton Club” in December 1867.<sup>1</sup> This game was played at Lincoln on a pitch described as new ground, perhaps implying that the pitch was prepared especially for the match. The visitors won the low scoring match by six wickets. Only two Lincoln players, Knight and Wright, made double figures, scoring 13 and 11 runs respectively, in the first innings.

Although a local club may have been formed earlier, the first account referring specifically to a Lincoln Cricket Club appeared in newspapers in September 1869 with reports of a club meeting, chaired by John Murray, on the evening of 27 September.<sup>2</sup> At that meeting it was resolved to begin the season on the first Wednesday in October when the club would field a team considered by some to be one of the most dangerous of the country teams. However, in November of that year Lincoln was easily beaten by Ellesmere by an innings and 61 runs. It was suggested that the ground “was rather dead” and that might have been the reason for the Lincoln team’s unfortunate result. Perhaps the match report was supplied by a member of the Lincoln club! However, later in the month the Lincoln team easily beat Mt Herbert by 45 runs, a result which was repeated when the return match was played about two weeks later.



45. *The first Lincoln Cricket Club.*

The club played a home game against a Press team in February 1872 which the visitors won by 32 runs on the first innings.<sup>3</sup> The paper reported that the Lincoln men were sloppy in the field “as they were out of practice, but one or two of the men were remarkably smart” and that The Press team was all out for a total of 86 runs. In their second innings the visitors lost five wickets for seven runs, but recovered to end the day with 60 runs for the loss of 8 wickets, but as time had run out Lincoln did not play their second innings. The teams dined at the Sluis’s Perthshire Arms hotel and after a convivial evening the visiting team left for Christchurch at about 8 pm. It was not always possible to enjoy the “convivial evening” after the Southbridge railway line opened, as in 1879, when a match against Leeston had to be abandoned before the second innings so that the visiting Lincoln team could catch the train home.<sup>4</sup>



At some stage the club must have gone into recess for in March 1877 a meeting of "gentlemen" in the Perthshire Arms formed a cricket club, again to be called the Lincoln Cricket Club.<sup>5</sup> There was to be an entrance fee of five shillings, an annual subscription of ten shillings and youths under 16 were to be admitted as members at half rates. A veteran cricketer of the district, Mr T. White, was elected President, W.A. Murray was asked to act as Secretary/Treasurer, and a management committee of H. White, H. Stocker, J.L. Blair, A.P. O'Callaghan, and E. Townshend, was elected to draw up rules, and to negotiate the use of 5 acres of ground to be ready for play by the following spring. Since wages were not high, membership may have been restricted to the more affluent in the district!

**LINCOLN.**—A meeting of those interested in the game of cricket was held at Sluis' Hotel, Lincoln, on Monday evening last, with a view of forming a club and obtaining a suitable ground for the ensuing year. There was a fair attendance. The Rev H. Stocker, who occupied the chair, briefly explained the object of the meeting, after which it was unanimously resolved—"That a cricket club be formed at Lincoln; that the name shall be 'The Lincoln Cricket Club;' that the entrance fee be 5s, and the yearly subscription, 10s; boys under 16 years to be admitted at half-price; and that all subscriptions paid now shall extend to October, 1878." The election of officers for the year was then proceeded with and resulted as follows:—President, Mr Richard Wright; Committee, Revs H. Stocker and O'Callaghan, Messrs Blair, White, Townshend, and W. A. Murray (hon secretary and treasurer). The committee were instructed to draw up rules and choose a ground, and report to a general meeting. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

46. Report of the re-establishment of the Lincoln Cricket Club. *Lyttelton Times*. 15 March 1877. Courtesy of Papers Past.

The committee was quick off the mark and a week later five acres, close to the Anglican vicarage, now known as "The Gables", had been leased from Mr. Judge. Their actions were endorsed and work was quickly started to level and turf the ground with the hope of a spring opening; a special subscription list was opened to help defray the cost of this work.<sup>6</sup> It took longer than expected and the opening match of the season, married men v. single men, was played on F.C. Murray's paddock and was declared a draw when light stopped play. At a committee meeting after the game it was decided to hold a practice twice a week; in Murray's paddock on Mondays and in H. White's paddock on Thursdays, until the club grounds were ready.

The club usually fielded reasonably competitive teams and for the most part their standard of play was not far below that of their opponents, although they were certainly not consistent. Thus in a match against Woolston the Lincoln team won by 43 runs, they were beaten by 3 wickets when they played Sunnyside, and won against the Bakers' team at Lincoln by 7 wickets. The pitch was in such a poor state for this match that the batsmen found the bowling, especially that of the fast bowlers, intimidating, and were glad to be dismissed. In a home match in March 1879 the Lincoln team beat the Midland Cricket Club by 8 runs on the first innings, but two years later they were well beaten by the Midland team who scored 290 runs against Lincoln's 23 and of these 290 runs 39 were conceded as extras because of Lincoln's poor fielding and the absence of a wicket keeper! Not surprisingly, the Lincoln team was demoralised by Midland's batting and running, but the fact that Lincoln was without the services of some of its better players, and that their innings began late in the afternoon in poor light apparently contributed to this abysmal performance.<sup>7</sup>

Occasionally a report of a club meeting mentions rules, but goes no further. However, The Press reports that at the Annual General Meeting in September 1884 the club resolved:<sup>8</sup>

1. That no person, other than those who were in good standing with the club, be allowed to use the club's ground.
2. That senior members attend practice at 3 pm on Mondays and Fridays, and that junior members practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
3. That there were to be no other practice days unless at least nine members requested the same.

Just as the fees noted earlier seemed likely to exclude the less well off, the practice times must have also made it difficult for a waged employee to take part.



The club again fell on hard times, a consequence perhaps of the long depression of the 1880s, or because of a lack of interest, or a combination of both. The Lyttelton Times of 18 September 1888 states that “owing to a consequence of adverse circumstances” the former club, one of the best in the country, was disbanded and that organized cricket had not been played in the district for some years. Because conditions had improved a meeting of interested persons decided to form a new club which was to be known as the Lincoln United Cricket Club. A.P. O’Callaghan MHR was elected President and Dr Westenra and Messrs D. Broome, F. Burnell, A. Dunnett, A.W. Stegall, F. Townshend and A. McNae were elected to the committee. The entrance fee was set at seven shillings and six pence for adults, and five shillings for boys under 16, a cost perhaps beyond the resources of the working man. It was hoped to begin the season in October, in a paddock made available by F. Hill who owned sections near the corner of Leinster Terrace and Market Square.<sup>9</sup> There are no records of consequence for the remaining years of the 19th century, although the Star records that in November 1894 Lincoln United beat Lincoln College by 17 runs. It is not known how long this club lasted, but the present Lincoln Cricket Club was formed in about 1945 and continues to flourish today.

School cricket was a feature of the early days and as early as 1869 a local school team was competing against neighbouring schools. Thus, in December of that year the Lincoln and Halswell school teams played at Halswell on land lent by Mr G. Sandrey where the Halswell flag, bearing the word Excelsior, flew above the scoring tent. The Lincoln team, hitherto considered invincible, was soundly beaten by an innings and 39 runs, “a result which appeared to astonish them most thoroughly”. The Lincoln team may have lost its form, for their fielding was apparently very loose and their batsmen found the fast, straight, underarm bowling of their opponents difficult to handle. James Mayes, Halswell backstop, was very efficient and in two innings only gave away four extras, in contrast to the 26 conceded by the Lincoln team. The umpires were Messrs Jacobson and Elwin, schoolmasters at Lincoln and Halswell respectively.<sup>10</sup> The Lincoln team may have been astonished at their defeat, but they must have been aware that Halswell had recently defeated a Prebbleton school team by nine wickets and that they would be facing formidable opponents.

The return match was played at Lincoln on December 31 1869. Although it was raining, the Halswell team arrived only to find that not one of the Lincoln team had bothered to turn up. However, Mr Jacobson gathered them in and the match started at 1.30pm when Halswell went in

to bat and were all out for 35 runs. The Lincoln innings was a valiant one, but despite better handling of the bowling, their final score was 34, thus losing by 1 run. According to The Press account the Lincoln team had improved since the earlier match, but their bowling would have been ineffective if opposed by competent batsmen! Apparently not one of the Lincoln team knew where their fielding positions were, or their names, and the captain had to consult a rule book and then take the players to their respective places. The match was played in pelting rain, but despite this disadvantage there was still a good turn-out of Lincoln folk who regaled the visitors “in the usual Lincoln style” after the match.<sup>11</sup>

A year later the two schools met again when Lincoln won the two matches played, the first by 20 runs and the second by 46 runs. According to newspaper reports the standard of play was good, especially that of the Lincoln team which must be considered the “first cricketing school of the province” thanks to the coaching of headmaster Jacobson and members of the Lincoln Cricket Club.<sup>12</sup> The tradition of encouraging the young started early in Lincoln! The day ended with a dinner of meat, custards, pies and cakes provided by the hosts, perhaps the most enjoyable part of the outing.

### **A Day At The Races**

On 21 April 1868 a race meeting was held near the Wheatsheaf Hotel. The meeting, timed to start at 12.30pm, was controlled by the rules of the Canterbury Jockey Club, and was a moderate success thanks to the efforts of the stewards and other officials. However, despite their efforts the first race, contested by six horses, set the pattern for the day when there was a protest against the winner and by the end of the meeting every race had been protested!<sup>13</sup>

The following year races were again held, but on a site about half a mile past the Wheatsheaf Hotel and to the right of the Leeston Track (Selwyn Road). This change of location was made because of the exorbitant charge imposed by the owner of the land used for the first meeting. The occasion was better organised than the first, although provision for officials and the public was primitive. There were five races for which there were generous cash prizes, including one of 50 pounds for the winner of the Lincoln Plate run over a distance of two miles. It was an auspicious occasion and was well patronized by visitors from Christchurch who outnumbered locals, many of whom were busy with the harvest.

## THE LINCOLN RACES

A good finish is the desideratum of racing, and if the term may be applied in a modified sense to the season, yesterday's annual meeting at Lincoln was more than usually satisfactory. For a district gathering, it was remarkably good, and most successfully closed a sporting period of exceptional activity and importance in the province. The presence of a member of the Royal Family, and a Governor of the colony, on two separate occasions, together with the general excellence of the sport, will give the season of 1868-9 a lasting prominence in our racing annals.

The weather yesterday, made the journey out not the least attractive feature in attending a district meeting, and was largely taken advantage of by the Christchurch patrons of the turf. The morning was bright, clear, and bracing, and matter for observation is not wanting on the road. No licensed coach was started, but there was a large number of private traps of superior pretensions, and a very strong muster of horsemen. The road assumed quite a lively appearance, and it may fairly be stated that the visitors were quite equal in number to the local patrons of the meeting. These were in fact noticeably small, but the number of threshing machines to be seen at work on the plains, gave a satisfactory explanation of the cause.

The course was only partially on the old ground, but an excellent piece of galloping turf was provided. The site upon which it was laid out is about half a mile beyond the Wheatsheaf Hotel, and a little to the right of the Leeston track. The circumference attained was about a mile and a quarter, the winning post being on the upper side. The arrangements for the convenience of officials were placed in their usual proximity to that point, but were of a more primitive nature than we have noticed for some time, the roped run in, the large wagon serving as a grand stand, and other accessories being evidently pressed into

the service for want of better provision. The indispensable booth for refreshment was on the left of the enclosure, and was efficiently presided over by Mr Lawrence, of the Wheatsheaf, a commodious pavilion in rear being also erected as a luncheon-room. Of the minor items peculiar to these occasions, and destructive to the funds of venturesome visitors, there was a good muster, and a capital trade was evidently done. A detachment of police were also present under Sergt. Jeffrey, and they rendered most efficient service.

47. *The Lincoln Races. Lyttelton Times. 14 May 1869. Courtesy of Papers Past.*

The Lincoln Cup proved to be an exciting race and something of the excitement of this race is captured by the Lyttelton Times report quoted in full below:<sup>14</sup>

*Mr Shand dropped his flag to a good line and Tantrum acting on orders, at once cut out the running, Backbiter holding second, Lyndon third, and Bobby Burns last honours. Tantrum continued to improve for some distance, the others keeping well together, Lyndon and Bobby hand held. At half*

*distance Goodyear [jockey] let the latter out and went up with Backbiter to the leader, Lyndon trying the same but failing, and Wildboy taking fourth place. The three leaders from this ran neck and neck with Wildboy two lengths in rear, a magnificent race ensuing throughout the last half mile. It was impossible to tell which horse was ahead, and the excitement became intense. Passing the distance, the whips were resorted to, and each horse in turn was named as the winner, but until the last hundred yards no clear lead could be awarded to either. Backbiter was then showing in front, and by a game effort passed the post half a length ahead, a neck intervening between Tantrum and Bobby, and Wildboy well up.*

This meeting brought to a close an exciting period of sporting activity in Canterbury which had been enhanced by the Prince of Wales who had visited Christchurch earlier that year

Another meeting held in December 1870 seems to have been the last racing occasion held at or near the Wheatsheaf Hotel for no further reports of succeeding events have been found.

On 1 January 1870 residents of Lincoln held their own race meeting.<sup>15</sup> It was a successful day, run on a good course, and was open to all horses in the district. The first race, a sweepstake for which five horses were entered, was for untrained horses over a distance of 1½ miles. The prize for the winner, Mr Baker's bay mare ridden by Spinks, was ten shillings, and the entrance fee was returned to the owner of the second horse home, A.M. Arklie's chestnut mare ridden by Blair. H. Moffat's grey mare was disqualified for running off the course.

There were only three entries for the second race, again a distance of 1½ miles, but one horse was scratched because it was thought to be so much better than the other two! The third race, the Consolation Stakes, was run for any horse beaten in the previous races. Three horses were entered: Haydon's chestnut mare, ridden by the owner, Moffat's mare, rider White, and W. Tod's black pony, ridden by D. Tod. The course took Moffat's horse past its stable, forcing the rider to struggle to keep the horse on track, and resulting in a win for Haydon's mare. The fact that Moffat's horse had to be forced to pass its stable suggests that the event took place in the general area of the Lincoln flour mill in south east Lincoln and probably on Tod's farm. The day finished with foot races and other activities that ended a great day for spectators and competitors alike.

A year later the Lincoln folk decided to make athletic competition the major focus of the New Year sports meeting although horse races were usually, but not always, included in the programme. This meeting, held on 2 January 1871, attracted about 600 people who were orderly enough, despite some drunkenness towards the end of the day. There were no police in attendance, and it was hoped that this omission would be corrected at future events; police were certainly present at later meetings, but for the most part had little to do. The Lyttelton Times report complimented the committee for the success of the day, but did note that better crowd control would have prevented people from wandering across the track when races were in progress and that the strong wind, and the dust which accompanied it, were the only flaws in the day.<sup>16</sup>

**LINCOLN.—The people in this neighbourhood, being determined to welcome the New Year with merriment, got up a pleasant day's sport on Monday. Prizes were given for all sorts of outdoor sports, and the children were well cared for and provided with ample amusement and refreshment. There was a very satisfactory attendance, and the only drawback to the entire success of the meeting was the high wind and dust accompanying it.**

Athletic events included a half-mile flat race, a 100 yards sack race, the high jump, long jump, a three-legged race, a hurdle race of 250 yards, tilting at the ring, tossing the caber, and climbing the greasy pole. First prizes were usually one pound or ten shillings, although a leg of lamb, in addition to a cash prize of ten shillings, was awarded to Charles Thompson for being the first to climb the greasy pole, and a live lamb plus two shillings and six pence was the prize for V. Miles who won the vaulting competition. The only unsuccessful event, the last of the day, was that of jumping for a roll soaked with treacle; competitors were too tired to make much effort and no prize was awarded.

*50. Report of the New Year's Sports Meeting held 2 January 1871 at Lincoln. Lyttelton Times. 4 January 1871. Courtesy of Papers Past.*





*48. Fun at a picnic. Late 19th century.*

Besides the usual athletic competition other events were organised from time to time. A wheelbarrow race was popular, and amusing, especially when the contestants were blindfolded! The Liverpool hornpipe, the Irish jig, best piping on the ground, a tug-of-war, usually between married and single men, three-legged races, sack races and quoits were offered at different meetings over the years. A walking race was tried on two occasions, but without success, for few contestants had mastered the technique. Once some competitors were disqualified for “trotting”, and on another occasion the race was considered to be such an absolute farce, apparently because the competitors occasionally began to run, that the committee decided that no prize should be awarded. There was also a “menagerie race”, a contest between two roosters, two cats and a goose, much to the amusement of the crowd. Just how the race was managed is best left to the imagination, but as one of the roosters disappeared into a nearby swamp and the cats were not co-operative, the remaining rooster was declared the winner and the goose was placed second. Their owners won one pound and ten shillings respectively.



For the first few years competition was reserved for males, but the 1874 meeting catered for females by offering three races:<sup>17</sup> 100 yards for girls under 11, 100 yards for girls under 15, and 440 yards for women over 15. In this last race there were five starters although “it was too far for all the ladies but the winners, who showed good pluck but not much speed”. In subsequent meetings there were usually two or three events for females but in some years there were none, and in others the only race available was for girls. Many events, including the mile, half-mile, jumping events, and the two mile walking race were open to all comers except professionals, but others, including boys’ and girls’ races, were generally restricted to those living within the Springs, Lincoln, and Little River Road Districts, although sometimes residents of Templeton, Courtenay, East or West Malvern and Port Victoria districts were also allowed entry.

The format of the meetings generally followed a standard pattern, including up to three events for horses. Thus at the fourth event there was a handicap trotting race, open to all comers, over a distance of 3 miles for which the course ran from Springston to Lincoln. There was also a ½ mile hack race which was more amusing than exciting because of the poor skills of some riders although this was no constraint for A.P. O’Callaghan’s horse which took the bit between its teeth and bolted around the course to win by half a neck.

The rules for horses varied from time to time. In some years horses could be entered only if they came from the Little River, Tai Tapu, Lincoln and Springs Road districts; in other years, as in 1874, the trotting race was open to all comers, and so attracted some of the best horses in Canterbury. To qualify for the January 1884 meeting horses had to have been held for at least at least three months within a radius of four miles from the Lincoln hotel.<sup>18</sup>

The sports meeting was continued into the 20th century, the venue depending upon whose land was available. Thus in 1873<sup>19</sup> it was held in “that part of Lincoln situated between Mr Pyne’s paddock and the blacksmith”, probably bounded by North Belt and Lyttelton and William Streets since at that time Pyne was part owner of land stretching between Boundary Road and North Belt, and MacPherson’s smithy was just up the road from the William Street-Gerald Street, corner. The preamble to the account of the meeting printed in *The Press* stated that *Lincoln township, as most people know, is a piece of ground that is as yet only partially built upon, although, no doubt at some future period it will be a large town, as when the railway is finished it will be the outlet of a great*

*portion of the peninsula. At present most of the township is covered with native grass, which is admirably suited when cleared of tussocks for sports.*

The Tods often made a paddock available, either opposite the school on land now partly developed as Liffey Fields, or nearer their homestead on the Lincoln - Tai Tapu Road. This last venue was the better of the Tods' paddocks because when the former was used, horses tethered under the blue gums fronting the paddock on James Street would stampede when a train rumbled past. One meeting was held in the centre of the village on ground behind the Perthshire Arms Hotel because work on the railway line made it impossible to use the Tod paddock opposite the school. On other occasions sites near the mill, perhaps on Moffat's farm, and on G.A. Smith's farm were used.

The job of providing refreshments for the day was usually left to the publican who was well supported by the public, but when there was a good cause others were allowed to share the privilege. Thus in 1881, the Anglican church held a bazaar and a gift auction in the nearby school room in aid of parochial funds and to help defray the cost of repairing the vicarage, and the following year the right to provide refreshments and luncheon was granted to the Presbyterians who were fund raising for their new church – the Union Church on James Street. A temperance booth was occasionally allowed to offer refreshments, usually in opposition to the publican's booth, and there were stalls selling sweets and toys for the children. Sometimes bands entertained the crowd and on one occasion at least, a young Burnham Band played several selections which were well received and were considered to be one of the principal attractions of the day.

The success of the sports day often depended on the weather. Not surprisingly wind, especially the nor'wester, could make the day unpleasant, but activities were never postponed because of it. Rain, however, was a different matter. On two or three occasions rain delayed the start of competition, brought the games to an early conclusion, or forced the committee to postpone the event altogether. The 1875 event was abandoned because of unexpected and heavy rain, and on 1 January 1890 the weather was so bad that the day's sport was postponed until the following week.<sup>20</sup> There is always a silver lining and when the 1875 event was abandoned the Perthshire Arms hotel did a roaring trade and was "crammed to overflowing" much to the publican's delight, and in 1890 the postponed sports drew a crowd of about one thousand people.

## Lawn Tennis Club

A lawn tennis club was active in Lincoln during the late nineteenth century, but little is known of it. However, it is clear that the club was founded in 1886, and was functioning at least as late as 1898. An account of the club's annual general meeting in September 1887<sup>21</sup> establishes that it was functioning during the previous year, for at that meeting the chairman, the Rev A. Tosswill, congratulated the club on its success, financially and otherwise, on the completion of its first year. At this meeting A.P. O'Callaghan MHR was elected President, and Dr Cooke, with Messrs Gray, Hay, Hill, Wilkinson, and the Revd. Tosswill were elected to the committee.

**DUNSANDEL. — On Saturday afternoon the Lincoln Tennis Club sent a team to play the annual match with the Dunsandel Club, which resulted in a win for the former by 18 games—Lincoln, 42 games; Dunsandel, 24 games. Misses Murray (3) and Morrish, Messrs Murray (2), Morrish and Nalder represented Lincoln, while Misses Lill, Irvine, M. Wright and M. Washbourne, Messrs T. Irvine, C. A. Wright, H. N. Wright and J. W. Lill represented the losers. Afternoon tea was dispensed by the lady members of the Club.**

*49. Report of the success of the Lincoln Tennis Club. The Star. 12 December 1892. Courtesy of Papers Past.*

In July 1898 Richard Wright sold just over four acres, part of Rural Section 2159, fronting Gerald Street, to Bishop Grimes, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Christchurch. The deed of sale records that Wright had earlier leased 33 perches of that land to the Lincoln Lawn Tennis Club for five years and that the sale to the diocese was subject to the terms of that lease being honoured. The tennis

courts were therefore on the outskirts of the township and somewhere on the land on which St. Patrick's, the presbytery, and the Glebe subdivision now stand.

In May 1887 the club held a novel and entertaining concert as a fund raising effort. The Lincoln and Burnham "*Tableaux Vivants*" offered their assistance and surprised their audience by the splendour of their costumes and the arrangement of their tableaux. The Burnham Band played appropriate selections for the various tableaux and some were loudly encored, "especially the last scene of Mary Queen of Scots preparing for her execution".<sup>22</sup>

Details of the last years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century are uncertain, although the terms of sale of Mr. Wrights land to Bishop Grimes suggest that it was still in existence at the end of the century. There is still a tennis club in Lincoln, but it plays on hard courts and it is possible that the Lawn Tennis Club did not continue long into the 20th century.

## Swimming

In March 1897 (The Press 10 March) a public meeting was held in the schoolroom to discuss the possibility of building swimming baths in Lincoln.<sup>23</sup> It was decided to take immediate action and a committee was elected to work with the school committee to implement the decision. The fact that a boy had drowned in the mill pond a few years earlier may have strengthened their resolve, but swimming baths had been built at other schools in surrounding districts as early as 1895 and the Lincoln decision would have been influenced by this trend. Those elected to the committee at the meeting were the Revd. Northcote, and Messrs Banks (the headmaster), Dunn, Rennie, Raven, McKenzie and Wilson.

The swimming pool was built in a corner of the school playground.<sup>24</sup> It was 75 feet long, 27 feet wide, 3 feet 6 inches deep at the shallow end and 8 feet at the deepest end. It was filled with water taken from a race beginning at the Waimakariri River. An asphalt path ran around the pool which was enclosed by a corrugated iron fence on the south and eastern sides and by a macrocarpa hedge on the north and western sides. Public subscriptions, supplemented by a grant from the school committee, paid for the project, organised by a committee of Messrs James Doherty (chairman), William Bartram (secretary), J.C. Revell, Thomas Yarr, Henry Exon, D. Dunn, John McKenzie, James Walton, W. Banks, George Rennie, John Hay, Andrew McKay, and the Revds A.M. Wright and J. Northcote. William Rolleston MHR, and last Superintendent of Canterbury Province, formally

opened the baths, and during his speech remarked that the existing system of irrigation needed to be expanded for the continued development of the Canterbury Plains. After the formalities the afternoon was given over to competition during which Rolleston and the local MP officiated as judge and starter respectively.

## SWIMMING.

The annual carnival of the Lincoln Swimming Club took place on Saturday. Afternoon tea was dispensed by the ladies. The racing resulted as follows:—

25YDS SCHOOLBOYS' HANDICAP—Final heat: Cookson, 12sec, 1; Walton, 15sec, 2. Time—33 2-5sec.

25YDS MAIDEN HANDICAP (Club)—Final heat: Withey, 8sec, 1; M'Nae, 6sec, 2. Time—20sec..

SPRING-BOARD DIVING—F. Stokes.

HIGH DIVE—P. W. Olliver, 1; G. J. C. Smart, 2.

TURNING COMPETITION—F. Stokes.

PLUNGING COMPETITION—F. Stokes.

75YDS LINCOLN HANDICAP (inter-club)  
—First heat: G. Fitzpatrick, 5sec, 1; G. J. C. Smart, 9sec, 2. Time—55 3-5sec. Second heat: V. Drake, 5sec, 1; T. Edwards, 3sec, 2. Time—55 4-5sec. Third heat: C. L. H. Hiorns, 5sec, 1; C. Schneider, 17sec, 2. Time—56 3-5sec. Fourth heat: J. S. Wauchop, 5sec, 1; F. Stokes, 4sec, 2. Time—53 3-5sec. Final heat: J. S. Wauchop, 5sec, and G. Fitzpatrick, 5sec, dead heat for first place; V. Drake, 5sec, 3. C. H. Hiorns 5sec also started. Time—55 3-5sec.

*50. Report of the Annual Carnival of the Lincoln Swimming Club for 1899. The Star. 8 November 1899. Courtesy of Papers Past.*

The drive to open swimming pools as seen in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century has been reversed in recent years and today (2011) there is no pool in Lincoln available to the public although within the next few years there could be a new pool at Rolleston with the most modern facilities available for district use.



## Pigeon and Sparrow Club

The house sparrow was first introduced into New Zealand without much success by the Nelson Acclimatisation Society in 1862. Subsequent releases were just as unsuccessful until 1866 when sparrows were brought into Canterbury. The Canterbury Acclimatisation Society had commissioned the captain of the SS “Matoka” to bring in 12 dozen (144) hedge sparrows. Because of an unfortunate blunder he was supplied with house sparrows instead, of which only 5 birds survived the voyage. These five were liberated by the captain when the Acclimatisation Society refused to accept them and within a few years they had become widespread.

The introductions were intended to provide control of insect pests which were seriously damaging grain crops, but the birds increased so rapidly that they in turn began to devastate the harvest. Road boards then began selling poisoned grain to farmers and paying a modest bounty on birds eggs and heads in their efforts to control the scourge. As a means of local control it was decided to form a Pigeon and Sparrow club in Lincoln.<sup>25</sup> The annual subscription was five shillings and a subcommittee of the honorary secretary/treasurer W.A. Murray, and Messrs Blakeney and Blair was appointed to draw up club rules and to find out what equipment was needed for club operations. Members hoped that a pigeon match could be arranged at an early date, although at the time feral pigeons were as threatening as the sparrow and their control was necessary. It is not known whether the club flourished, but there is no doubt that it was formed as a response to the threat the birds posed to the local economy.

## Rifle Club

A rifle club was formed at Lincoln on 25 June, 1885.<sup>26</sup> Officers elected were A.P. O’Callaghan MHR President; Dr. A.C. Preston Vice-President; J.G. Murray Captain; H.B. Howe honorary Secretary-Treasurer; and D. Broome, W.A. Burke, A. Bartram, F. Townshend and G. Wagner, Committee. Rules were drawn up and a suitable site on the Port Hills was sought for the range after an offer for one on Rabbit Island at Motukarara was rejected.

Later that year the Lincoln club was represented at a meeting of district rifle clubs which resolved to inform the Government that a State Rifle Association would be formed if the government provided rifles and ammunition of the type issued to volunteers.<sup>27</sup> Members were sure that if the club was supported in this way the proposed Association would prepare for

emergencies, and local dignitaries, including A.P. O’Callaghan, were asked to lend their weight to the request. The club was active and held matches on their range which was eventually situated on Henry Gray’s land at Tai Tapu and probably identified by the sign identifying a culvert on the road between Tai Tapu and Motukarara as Rifle Range Culvert. The Lyttelton Times of 31 October 1887 describes the range as “very prettily situated at the entrance of a deep gully on the other side of the Port Hills from Governors Bay.” At this time the club’s finances were so healthy that it was hoped that a reduction in the entrance fee and the annual subscription was possible and would encourage more people to join. There was even debate about wearing a club uniform, apparently not a popular idea, although members agreed that should other clubs agree to do so the Lincoln Club would conform. As noted earlier W.A. Banks, headmaster of the Lincoln School, was an expert shot and in 1895 competed at Bisley, England, as a member of the New Zealand team.

Other activities such as picnics, balls and concerts as well as the formation of societies and clubs such as choirs and improvement societies were also part of Lincoln life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and these are the subject of the next chapter.

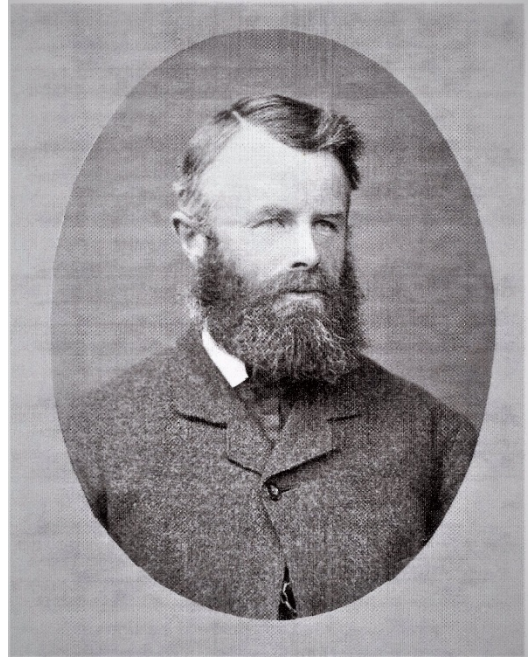
#### Sources and notes

1. The Press 18 December 1867. See [Papers Past](#).
2. Ibid 30 September 1869. See [Papers Past](#).
3. Ibid 26 February 1872. See [Papers Past](#).
4. Ibid 1 November 1877. See [Papers Past](#).
5. Ibid 19 March 1877. See [Papers Past](#).
6. Ibid 21 March 1877. See [Papers Past](#).
7. Lyttelton Times. 14 March 1881. See [Papers Past](#).
8. The Press 28 March 1884. See [Papers Past](#).
9. Lyttelton Times. 18 September 1888. See [Papers Past](#).
10. Ibid 14 December 1869. See [Papers Past](#).
11. Ibid 3 January 1870. See [Papers Past](#), and The Press 24 January 1870. See [Papers Past](#).

12. Weekly Press 24 December 1870.
13. Lyttelton Times. 22 April 1868. See [Papers Past](#).
14. Ibid 14 May 1869. See [Papers Past](#).
15. Weekly Press 8 January 1870.
16. Lyttelton Times. 4 January 1871. See [Papers Past](#).
17. The Press. 3 January 1874. See [Papers Past](#).
18. Ibid 26 December 1883. See [Papers Past](#).
19. Ibid 5 November 1873, 4 January 1873. See [Papers Past](#).
20. Ibid 4 January 1875. See [Papers Past](#), and Weekly Press 10 January 1890.
21. Lyttelton Times. 7 October 1887. See [Papers Past](#).
22. The Press. 1 June 1877. See [Papers Past](#).
23. Ibid 10 March 1887. See [Papers Past](#).
24. Ellesmere Guardian 5 February 1898. See [Papers Past](#).
25. The Press. 8 September 1877. See [Papers Past](#).
26. Lyttelton Times. 30 June 1885. See [Papers Past](#).
27. Weekly Press 8 August 1885.

## KICKING UP THEIR HEELS

Most pioneers knew that they were unlikely to see their homeland or their families and friends again. In his reminiscences of early Lincoln T.W. Adams, pioneer farmer and arborist, remembered the loneliness of not seeing anyone for a week or more, his helplessness when ill and alone, and the thrill of hearing a skylark one Sunday afternoon as he walked to Lincoln<sup>1</sup>. The late Ralda Hall, when chairperson of the former Pioneer and Early Settlers Association, spoke of the courage of the women who left all that was familiar and loved to start a new life in a strange land. It comes as no surprise then that the early settlers used what opportunities they had to meet and to socialise with each other, sometimes for self improvement.



*51. T. W. Adams early Lincoln pioneer and arborist*

### Tea meetings

Tea meetings were mostly associated with a church function to celebrate an anniversary, to mark the end of the Sunday School year, to welcome or farewell a minister, or as a prelude to a parish meeting. These must have been happy affairs, with talk, laughter, and tables laden with food provided by the women folk. At one particular meeting some 400 people of all denominations turned up to welcome the new Presbyterian pastor after the church had been without a minister for more than a year, an event worthy of celebration<sup>2</sup>. The Baptists too, socialised over tea before attending to the business of the day when their chapel, built through their own efforts and with the help of friends, was opened in February 1877. Tea was served in several sittings in order to cater for the 200 or more persons present.

As always, special efforts were made to provide a treat for the children of the district either in connection with Sunday School or with the primary school. The Sunday School picnic was a feature as early as 1869 when the children were entertained to tea by the ladies and bachelors of the

Presbyterian congregation, the latter contributing liberally to the laden table<sup>3</sup>. After tea the minister spoke, often of the advantages of training in a "Sabbath School", and the Superintendent reported on progress made by the school during the last twelve months. Once, every child in the district was invited to the annual treat of the Unsectarian Sunday School, resulting in a happy and fun-filled treat for them<sup>4</sup>. Following tea, pupils would entertain with sacred poems and hymns, and afterwards prizes, usually books, were distributed. As one would expect, the books presented were of an uplifting nature such as those presented in the late 1880's to William Topham of the Presbyterian Sunday School, bearing the titles "The Boyhood of Martin Luther" and "The Paradise of the North, A Story of Adventure Around the North Pole".

At these Sunday school treats the function often ended with reports and lengthy talks by incumbent and visiting clergy. These were obviously intended for the adults present, but one wonders whether the children were expected to sit through them all - surely a bore which must have taken some of the shine from their day! Indeed, one newspaper report noted that at an anniversary tea two men spoke at such length that it was difficult to maintain concentration, especially for the children<sup>5</sup>. The tea meetings were generally well attended and in 1873 more than 200 people, including 90 children, turned up for the annual celebration of the Unsectarian Sunday School. The children were fed first and then played whilst their parents had tea, but they must have attended the business meeting which followed for the children entertained with songs and recitations of a religious nature.

A tea meeting, not a church function, was held at Broadfield to farewell Samuel Denning Glyde who was leaving New Zealand to join his brother in South Australia. He was clerk and surveyor to both the Lincoln and Springs Road Boards and was well known to most residents in the area for his interests went far beyond his official duties. Amongst other matters he worked hard to improve farming practice by supporting the formation of the Lincoln Farmers' Club, and was active in organising the popular ploughing competitions. A further reason for the meeting was to celebrate the completion of the Broadfield School, a project which Mr. Glyde, as first chairman of the school committee, enthusiastically supported. This was a popular event and people came from miles around despite the inconvenience of wet weather and muddy roads<sup>6</sup>.

After tea the formalities began. Mr. Glyde was presented with an illuminated address by the Broadfield school committee and with an annotated bible from the children of Springston and

Broadfield schools. In his response he emphasised the importance of education and warned against allowing clerical interference in schools, for in his experience the admission of a minister into a school was likely to cause dissension. Whether or not religious instruction should be part of the school curriculum was a topic of considerable interest at the time and it is clear where Glyde's sympathies lay. Proceedings finished with songs, readings, and a talk about Adelaide, to which city the Glyde family was moving.

### School picnics

School picnics were always an occasion for a good day out. On one occasion the children of Broadfield, Lincoln and Prebbleton schools, together with local folk, were invited to a picnic at Newlands, the residence of A.C. Knight near Ladbrooks. Despite a wet morning a great number of people accepted the invitation to Newlands where the crowd entertained themselves by playing cricket and other sports, for which Mrs Knight provided prizes. On another occasion the Lincoln school was invited to hold its picnic at Lansdowne, the home of W.E. Stafford, former premier of New Zealand. This was another popular outing which required thirteen traps and Moffat's (the miller) large wagon to carry the children and their parents to the destination. There the day passed happily in dancing, races, and other sports, and the children twice entertained with song, with credit to themselves and to their teachers.<sup>7</sup>

After 1875 the school committees were able to take advantage of the railway to travel further afield for the annual picnic. Thus in 1877 children of Lincoln, Prebbleton and Springfield schools travelled to Lyttelton by train and then took a launch for their picnic at Corsair Bay. A special train was used in 1881 when a picnic was held at Birdlings Flat for pupils of Lincoln and other local schools. The day was a busy and exciting one. There was a cricket match against the Little River school, boating on Lake Forsyth, athletics, and a search for the site of Seaforth, a sub-division now known as Birdlings Flat. The day ended for the Lincoln children with "a lavish distribution of lollies, biscuits etc." when the train arrived at Lincoln station at about 7 pm<sup>8</sup>. It is interesting to note that the return journey began at 5.30 pm, an indication that the local trains were as slow as it was claimed they were.





*52. Boating on the L1.*

## **Dinners**

A dinner was often held after a sports meeting, such as a cricket match or a ploughing competition, sometimes to honour a worthy member of the community, or to celebrate some special event. A dinner to celebrate an especially abundant harvest was held at the Prebbleton Hotel in March 1870. The Provincial Superintendent, William Rolleston, J. Hall MHR, A.C. Knight MPC, and most of the leading farmers of the district were present. As was customary on such occasions there were numerous toasts to which those honoured made suitable reply and often alluded to important matters of the day. In reply to one toast Mr. Shand spoke of the need to support the introduction of insectivorous birds in order to control the pests damaging wheat and other grain crops, and Samuel Glyde commented that he would like to see a Farmers' Club, similar to the Leeston Club, established in the Lincoln district<sup>9</sup>. Besides the toasts it was not uncommon

for some to entertain their fellow diners with song. Whether the singing was of a high standard is a matter for conjecture, although reports were frequently complimentary, but there is no doubt that people were used to entertaining, and as they must have had plenty of practice, their efforts were probably of a high standard.

Dinners were usually held in either the hotel at Lincoln or at Prebbleton. The quality of the fare was said to be good, or even excellent, and a tribute to the skills of the hotel cooks. The participants were invariably male, whatever the occasion, and the only role for the womenfolk was to be the subject of the toast, "The Ladies", to which there was no one to respond. Women were present at tea meetings, school picnics and concerts and for these their participation was an absolute necessity as the main providers of refreshments, and often as entertainers.

## Concerts

Concerts were another form of entertainment, mostly staged to raise funds for the school, for a club, or to celebrate the opening of some facility. Items were usually contributed by local talent although occasionally entertainers were brought in from as far afield as Christchurch. The published accounts of the concerts were often generous in their praise of the performance although it seems that some were less than remarkable. Thus, The Press<sup>10</sup> states of a concert held to raise funds for the Lincoln school that "the talent of the performances and appreciativeness of the audience, can certainly vie with any of the season". At another concert held in that year a choir performed with credit, but would have been heard better had they faced the audience. Sometimes a musical item was spoiled because the audience would beat time with their feet which must have annoyed the performers and those who wanted to listen quietly to the music. One irritated individual suggested that if the ceiling was lowered the audience could bump their heads against it instead of stamping their feet upon the floor, and that "one could ascribe it to a desire to discover whether they possessed any brains".<sup>11</sup>

The items presented at these concerts were mainly musical, although readings from the classics, a poem, or a comic speech were often presented, usually by a well known personality. Mr. Glyde apparently was a capable entertainer as were Mrs Galletly, one of the first female European settlers in the district, and Howard Charles Jacobson, Lincoln schoolmaster, and later founder of the Akaroa Times. Mr. Arklie, the first proprietor of the Perthshire Arms read a story at one concert



and the Revd. F. Pember read two or three scenes from "As You Like It". Apparently his style was excellent, and the clarity and emphasis were such as had not before been heard in the colony, another example of the exaggerated praise sometimes expressed by the local correspondent! On the other hand, the same correspondent could damn with faint praise as when he commented that one entertainer was applauded because the love story presented was one which everyone could understand.<sup>12</sup>

## Choirs

From the earliest times there was occasional mention in the newspapers of a choir performing at some function in Lincoln and from the context it was sometimes obvious that it was a church choir. All churches apparently had a choir, and these sometimes sang away as the Presbyterian Church choir did at the opening of the Baptist Chapel. A Lincoln Choral Society was formed in September 1887<sup>13</sup> at a meeting chaired by Dr. Westenra and during which a provisional committee, including Mrs. O'Callaghan, Miss Blythen, Dr. Westenra and Mr. M'Nae, was elected. The first practice was held a week later under the control of Mr. Gillies and the numbers attending augured well for its future, despite the shortage of tenors! Their first concert, performed in the town hall (the former Perthshire Arms hotel) about six months later, was well

**• LINCOLN • CHORAL • SOCIETY •**

**C O N C E R T**

TO BE HELD IN  
**THE TOWN HALL,**  
ON  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1888.**

President : A. P. O'Callaghan, Esq., M. B. R.

PART I.

1. PART SONG—" Oh, who will o'er the downs so free " MEMBERS OF SOCIETY
2. PIANOFORTE DUET .. .. THE MISSES MURRAY
3. MADRIGAL—" Here is Cool Grot " MEMBERS OF SOCIETY
4. TRIO .. .. MRS. O'CALLAGHAN, MISS AND MR. COMERFORD
5. QUARTETTE—" Five Times by the Taper Lights " MEMBERS OF SOCIETY
6. SONG .. .. MRS. WESTENRA
7. GLEE—" Hail Smiling Morn " .. MEMBERS OF SOCIETY

➔ INTERVAL OF 10 MINUTES. ➔

PART II.

8. MADRIGAL—" Old May Day " .. MEMBERS OF SOCIETY
9. QUARTETTE—" Romance " .. MRS. O'CALLAGHAN, MRS. HAY,  
MR. McNAE AND DR. COOKE
10. SONG—" I Fear no Fog " .. .. MR. COMERFORD
11. PIANOFORTE DUET—" Divertimento " MISS COMERFORD AND MR. GILLIES
12. PART SONG—" Since first I saw your face " .. MEMBERS OF SOCIETY
13. SONG .. .. MRS. O'CALLAGHAN
14. CHORUS—" The Stars that above us are Shining " MEMBERS OF SOCIETY

**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.**

PIANIST .. .. MRS. HAUGHTON  
CONDUCTOR .. .. MR. D. GILLIES

**ADMISSION—ONE SHILLING.**

53. *The Choral Society Concert Programme*

received. Of the soloists, Mrs. Westenra, Mrs. O'Callaghan and Mr. Crawford were commended for their performances as were Miss Crawford and Mr. Gillies for their piano duet. Mrs. Haughton acted as accompanist for the singers and contributed significantly to the success of the evening.<sup>14</sup>

The second concert a year later, again in the town hall, included solos, glees, quartets, part songs and comic songs, and according to newspaper reports were performed at such a high standard that other groups could well be envious of the skills displayed. Well known residents who contributed to the success of this second concert with their solo performances included Mrs. Westenra, Mrs. Howell, and Mrs. O'Callaghan, who were ably supported by Mrs. Haughton, the accompanist. The director for the evening again was Mr. Gillies. Unfortunately, nothing more is known of the society although choirs have been part of Lincoln life ever since the village was founded.

## **Balls**

In some instances a concert or a dinner was followed by a ball at which the participants danced "the night away". Dancing was not often mentioned in reported social activity, although when the old Perthshire Arms hotel was opened as the Lincoln Town Hall the occasion was celebrated with a concert and dance, and New Year's sports meetings often ended with a ball. Balls and dancing were probably practised more frequently than one might suppose, for dancing classes were held in the schoolroom and, as noted earlier, the outrageous action of the teacher drew public attention to the fact.

## **Chess and Draughts**

Besides the above mentioned forms of social activity there were others which one can only guess at, except for the occasional clue when an event was considered worthy of public notice. Thus, cards, chess and draughts would have been popular in the home and the last two were certainly encouraged by the Farmers' Club who provided members with a reading room and appropriate papers and magazines in the belief that these "and other innocent amusements...were preferable to playing euchre in a bar room".<sup>16</sup>

A chess and draughts club was formed on Tuesday 9 May 1883, and the secretary, Charles Loones, reported that the library committee had agreed to allow the new club use of their room at a rental of ten shillings a month. The annual subscription was fixed at five shillings and the

secretary was to receive the names and the subscriptions of joining members. Other officers elected were D.W. Bartram, president; Mr.

Banks, vice-president; committee members were J. Taylor; D. Broome and H. White. Club nights were Tuesdays and Wednesdays.<sup>17</sup>

#### DRAUGHTS.

The first match between the Tai Tapu and Lincoln Clubs took place in the Lincoln Library on Friday evening, and resulted in a win for the visiting team. There was considerable interest taken in the game.

Despite the apparent enthusiasm, judged by the numbers present, there is no further record

*54. Report of the Draughts Club. Lyttelton Times. 17 October 1889. Courtesy of Papers Past.*

of the club in the principal newspapers, although this does not imply that it failed to prosper. It would be good to have further information on the fate of this club.

### The Improvement Society

At about the same time there was an active Lincoln Young Men's Society and there is a report of a Society meeting on the evening of 10 August 1885 at which members debated the proposition "Should the colonisation of Chinamen be encouraged?" J. Taylor opened in the affirmative, Mr Restall in the negative, and after other speakers advanced their points of view, a show of hands supported those who argued for the affirmative.<sup>18</sup> The meeting was well attended, and the report implied that the club was thriving and had been in existence for some time. The next known account is five years later when the society held its Annual General Meeting in the Lincoln library. The Rev H. Adamson was re-elected president, the vice-presidents were Rev J.F. Teakle and Dr F.G. Westenra, the treasurer was D. Dunn, the secretary, W. Bartram and the committee Messrs D. Dunn, A. Geddes, W. Kennedy, A. McNae, J. Sinclair and W. Van Asch. On this occasion the meeting resolved to change the name to The Lincoln Mutual Improvement Society, and the subscription was reduced from two shillings and six pence to one shilling.<sup>19</sup>

Subjects discussed were often very topical and included the possible abolition of capital punishment, whether the government was right in acquiring the Cheviot estate, and in 1892 six members visited the Prebbleton society to debate the contentious issue of women's franchise. It was a long night, for the matter was debated for more than two hours. The Prebbleton team supported the right of women to have the vote and Lincoln put forward the opposite view. When debate ended the jury took some time to reach a decision in favour of Lincoln.<sup>20</sup>

The society was still in existence in 1897 when a report of the annual general meeting appeared in The Press of 15 April, but for how long it continued after that date is not known.

### Other societies

Other societies were formed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century but apparently either did not last long or were not much reported. Of these we should note the Lincoln Temperance Society, one of many in the region, which was certainly in existence during the 1890's. Delegates from the Lincoln and neighbouring societies met in Lincoln in 1891 to form the Southern Cross Prohibition League and appear to have been politically motivated.

There is a report of a pigeon shoot on Mr. Tod's paddock in August 1885. There was good turnout for the shoot which was helped by good weather. There is a gun club in existence today, and in recent years local shooters have been outstanding at the international level, especially at the Commonwealth Games.

### Sources and notes

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2. The Press 1 October 1877. See [Papers Past](#).
3. Supplement to the Lyttelton Times. 10 May 1869. See [Papers Past](#).
4. Weekly Press 21 January 1871.
5. Ibid 2 December 1876.
6. Ibid 8 July 1871
7. Ibid 15 January 1870, and The Press 29 December 1873. See [Papers Past](#).
8. Lyttelton Times. 30 December 1871. See [Papers Past](#). Six carriages were used for the special train.
9. Weekly Press 26 March 1870.
10. The Press 2 August 1869. See [Papers Past](#).
11. Lyttelton Times. 28 August 1869. See [Papers Past](#).
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13. Star 14 September 1887. See [Papers Past](#)
14. Lyttelton Times. 19 March 1889. See [Papers Past](#).
15. Ibid 2 October 1888. See [Papers Past](#).
16. Weekly Press 27 July 1872.
17. The Press 12 May 1893. See [Papers Past](#).
18. Weekly Press 15 August 1885.
19. The Press 7 April 1890. See [Papers Past](#).

## THE LIBRARY



*55. Pioneer Hall – the first library.*

Most small townships established a library early in their history and Lincoln was no exception. Many continued to serve their communities with varying success until the local body reforms of the early 1990's brought them under the control of largely expanded district councils. The Lincoln library, in common with most within the Selwyn District, became a branch of the Selwyn District Library which brought major benefits to the rural and urban communities in which they operate.

The library was founded in 1873 just ten years after subdivision, a tribute to those pioneer settlers who were passionate about the value of education. At a meeting called to consider the establishment of a library, A.C. Knight, the local member of the Provincial Council, stated that for him a library was almost as important as a school, and A.P. O'Callaghan noted that earlier efforts to set up a library had failed because there were too few residents to support the venture. Times

had changed, the need now was so much greater, and after due debate it was resolved to establish a Lincoln library and to build a reading room.<sup>1</sup> It was hoped that the project would be helped by a grant from the Provincial Government Library Fund and the Lincoln Book Club offered to donate money for the purchase of books. Apart from telling us that there was a functioning book club in Lincoln at that time nothing else is known about it.

Having decided to build a library it was then necessary to find a suitable site. After a long debate, during which sites in the school grounds and the township were rejected, William Tod's offer of 32 perches, opposite the school and adjacent to the Presbyterian Church, was accepted. This sliver of land, now the site of Liffey Cottage, was separated from a much larger paddock of Tod's by the planned line of the railway, and was bought for five shillings. The annual subscription was set at five shillings and a working committee of five was elected: Messrs A.C. Knight, R. Wright, W. Tod, H. Moffat and the Revd. A.P. O'Callaghan. It was decided that the school committee would manage the library, even if only on a temporary basis, and that books were to be bought in Melbourne because they cost a third less than in Christchurch and it would be ridiculous to do otherwise!

At a meeting three months later the working committee reported that the Provincial Government would give a pound for pound subsidy on any amount raised up to 100 pounds with an additional grant of 50 pounds towards the purchase of books.<sup>2</sup> Strangely, the subsidy offended some people because it seemed to favour urban areas where raising money would be relatively much easier! A committee was then formed to canvass the district for subscriptions and Mr. J.T. Matson was asked to value the 32 perches which were vested in the names of Messrs Knight, Meyenberg and the Revd. O'Callaghan as trustees for the residents of the Lincoln school district to whom the land was given.

A few days later the committee reported that the 32 perches had been valued at 25 pounds by Mr. Matson who had generously waived his fee as a donation to the fund. The appeal for subscriptions realised 52 pounds and this, together with the value of the land and one pound five shillings donated by the Lincoln Book Club, encouraged the committee to make a further appeal for funds.<sup>3</sup> This appeal, followed by a gift auction at which a cabbage sold for 13 shillings, brought funds to a total of 102 pounds, enough to qualify for the government subsidy. The decision to

establish a library was made in 1873, building began early in 1874 and in July of that year the building was completed and ready for business.

It was a splendid building, 20 feet x 15 feet, with a 6 feet x 6 feet porch, lined with Baltic pine, and the interior, fitted with five shelves, each 15 feet long, was stained and varnished and a credit to Henry Meyenberg the contractor.<sup>4</sup> To enhance the appearance of the building a paling fence was built along the front boundary and the neighbouring Presbyterians were asked to remove the gorse from the fence between the church and the library. The maintenance of the fences was an ongoing chore and gorse always needed cutting. The community was proud of its new library building and since there was no public hall for local groups to meet, the new facility was seen by some as an alternative to the schoolroom and hotel. Thus the Lincoln Brass Band<sup>5</sup> was allowed use of the building for practice one night a week on condition that they paid for lighting and heating, and the Orange Lodge No 14 was permitted to use the building at two pounds per annum with the requirement that the Master took responsibility for any damage to, or loss of books.<sup>6</sup> Lincoln now has neither a brass band nor an Orange Lodge and to date there are no available details relating to either, although the lodge may have been that which was established in Prebbleton at about that time.

Business began as soon as the books ordered from Melbourne were shelved. Subscribers could borrow books between 7 pm and 8 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, later reduced to twice a week, and were helped by a paid librarian who received five pounds five shillings per annum. This may have been too little, for later the honorarium increased to ten pounds a year, but the position was hard to fill and mostly the library was staffed by volunteers. A boy was employed to light the fire in winter so that the room was warm for the 7 pm opening. The library flourished in the first years and the number of subscribers, who not only had access to books but also to local and overseas newspapers, rose rapidly. As a consequence, the committee decided not to increase the annual subscription until it was realised that a subscription of ten shillings was necessary in order to qualify for government grants.<sup>7</sup> In order to compensate for the inevitable increase in subscription members were given the opportunity to pay quarterly. Nevertheless, the committee was always trying to cut costs, and although books were now being bought in Christchurch they also approached other local libraries to join them in "sending home" for books. The Dunsandel

library took up one such offer and together they imported books to the value of 28 pounds from England.<sup>8</sup>

Book buying continued apace, financed in part from library funds and partly from modest government grants so that within a few years stock had risen to a total of 669 volumes and there were 1105 book and 192 newspaper withdrawals. Some of the titles listed in library records of those early days included works such as *Last Glacial Epoch of Geology*, a two volume biography of Robert Louis Stevenson, a three volume *History of American War* and two works by H.M. Stanley, *How I Found Livingstone* and *At Home with the Patagonians*. There were one or two novels by Thackeray and Trollope, but nothing that would be considered as light reading by today's standards. Newspapers included the *Illustrated London News*, *The Spectator*, *The Weekly Press* and the *Australasian*, all of which would offer a wide coverage of news although with a bias towards the Home country. It is worth repeating here that the Lincoln Farmers Club also provided a reading room for its members, stocked with farming papers and magazines which it was hoped would offer a more profitable occupation than playing cards in the local hotel!

A problem common to all libraries is that of missing or lost books. In 1881 the committee reported that 25 books were missing and that this could be attributed to the undesirable practice of members changing books out of hours.<sup>9</sup> Did they all have a key, or was the building never locked? To help control the number of missing books it was decided to buy 1,000 special labels to be pasted into the books in order to record the date on which the book was to be returned.

Despite the early optimism the library fell upon hard times, especially in the slump years of the 1880's. By 1889 the library was in dire financial straits and so a fund raising concert was held in the school room to address the problem, and although the programme was an excellent one the number of tickets sold barely covered costs. Nevertheless the concert was enjoyed by those who attended and afterwards the floor was cleared for dancing which continued until 4am the following morning. Unfortunately, the situation continued to deteriorate and in May 1900 a meeting, held in the school room was called to consider re-opening and re-organising the public library<sup>10</sup>, implying that it had been closed, for a short time at least.

The most important topic considered was that of moving the library to a more central position although it was difficult to decide where the building should be re-located. There were two options.

One was to accept the offer from the Druids to move the building to their land, (where the Community Centre stands opposite the service station on Gerald Street), for an annual rental of ten shillings, and the second was to place it on public land on the western side of the L1 next to the bridge. The second option was considered the better one and that is where it went after the necessary permission was sought and obtained. Messrs Jennings, Exon, Restall and Dr Cooke were appointed to organise the shift. In September 1900 the building was moved to its new site by H. Bennett and his traction engine for no cost.<sup>12</sup>

The move to a more central site was a good one. To help defray costs donations were sought and with the help of a ladies' committee a fund raising concert was organized. The newly located building was renovated, new books were purchased, new rules formulated, and on Monday 4 December 1900, three months after the move, the library was again open for business. The new rules are summarized as follows:<sup>13</sup>

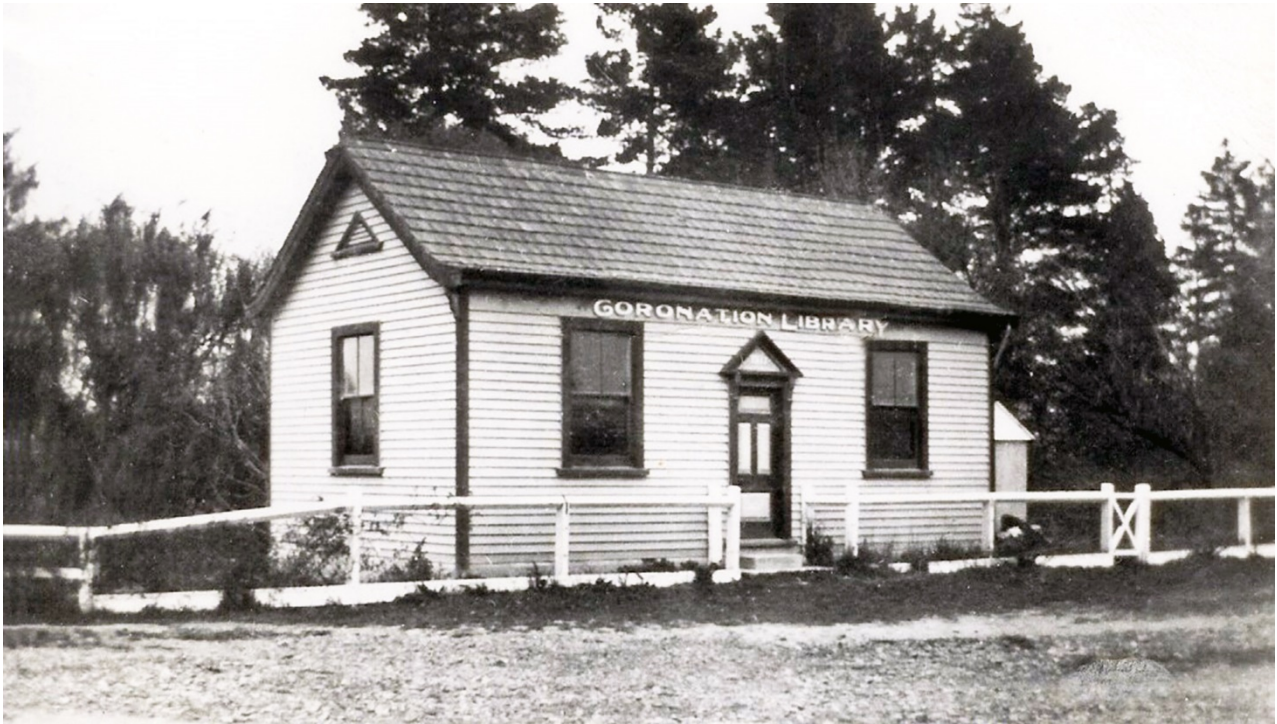
1. Library to open Monday and Thursday 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm.
2. Annual subscription to be five shillings, payable in advance.
3. Subscribers could borrow only one book at a time, or no more than three volumes of any particular title.
4. Books to be returned within 14 days and not to be lent by the borrower.
5. No book that had been in the library for less than 6 months could be borrowed by the same subscriber a second time within a week of it being returned.
6. Any damaged or defaced book to be replaced or paid for by the person at fault.
7. Periodicals to lie on the table for two weeks and afterwards to be returned within one week.
8. No smoking in the library.
9. Subscriber to agree to abide by rules before being allowed to use the library.

Following the move a decision had to be made about the original site. The committee hoped to sell it, but because it had been gifted in perpetuity to the residents of the Lincoln School District this



was not possible. It was then discovered that the original trustees noted above had either resigned or died and so Dr. J. Cooke, and Messrs John Wolfe and Frank Townshend were elected to replace them.<sup>14</sup> The site was fenced and planted with bluegums (the last of which may have been removed with recent building about opposite the hospital) and in 1906 made available to the school for garden plots provided that the fences were kept in good order and the gorse was grubbed.<sup>15</sup> Later, it was used as a horse paddock, but eventually a part of it was incorporated within the bounds of a gravel pit adjacent to the Presbyterian Church (Union Church). The site was unused for many years until in 1977 the cottage, now known as Liffey Cottage, was moved onto it by Mr. J.B. Curline for no charge, thus emulating Mr. Bennett's generosity 77 years earlier. The Liffey Cottage was built in 1875 in Market Square for W.A. Murray, clerk and surveyor to Springs Road Board, and later became John Muir's home and butcher shop. To make the move possible the Union Church allowed the cottage to rest upon a small portion of their property which subsequently became a part of the cottage reserve now vested in Selwyn District Council.

The relocated and renovated library operated on its new site for the next ten years. However, in 1911 subscribers decided to honour the Coronation of King George V by adding a reading and recreation room to the existing building<sup>16</sup>, only to discover that the expected government subsidy only applied to a new building. Accordingly it was decided to build a new library, to be known as the Coronation Library, on the opposite side of the L1, but still on Domain Board land. The building became redundant following the local body reforms of 1989–1990, and was then used as a toy library until in 2009 the latter moved to a new location on North Belt. The Lincoln library became a branch of the Selwyn District Library and is now housed in the old Post Office building in Gerald Street opposite The Vale precinct and is soon to be replaced on the same site.



*56. The Coronation Library built in 1911.*

The first library building, still on the site to which it was moved in 1900, is now known as the Pioneer Hall. When it was replaced by the Coronation Library in 1911 it was used as a meeting room for various local groups until it was taken over by St Stephen's Church for its Sunday school. When the church built its own hall in the 1970's the Pioneer Hall became the responsibility of the Lincoln Pioneer and Early Settlers Association which in 1991 merged with the Liffey Cottage Action Committee to form the Lincoln Historical Society, later to become The Lincoln and Districts Historical Society. We are fortunate that in Lincoln the first two library buildings are still standing and one cannot help but applaud the vision of those early settlers who were determined to establish their library in 1873.

## Sources and Notes

1. The Press 14 July 1873. See [Papers Past](#).
2. Ibid 19 September 1873. See [Papers Past](#).
3. Ibid 22 September 1873. See [Papers Past](#).
4. Ibid 10 July 1874. See [Papers Past](#).
5. Ibid 9 November 1875. See [Papers Past](#).
6. The Weekly Press 5 August 1876.
7. The Press 10 September 1875. See [Papers Past](#).
8. Ibid 19 May 1879. See [Papers Past](#).
9. Lyttelton Times. 14 April 1881. See [Papers Past](#).
10. Library Minutes 21 May 1900.
11. Ibid 18 June 1900.
12. Lyttelton Times. 27 September 1900. See [Papers Past](#).
13. Library Minutes 22 October 1900.
14. Ibid. See minutes for 22 October 1900.
15. Ibid 31 January 1906.
16. Ibid 21 June 1911.

## ACCIDENTS AND OTHER DISASTERS

When one reads accounts of events in the early days of Lincoln they are often presented as short paragraphs with little or no indication of the impact the event may have had upon the local population. Many of these seemingly insignificant events, such as accidents, sudden deaths, fires, and criminal acts must have been locally sensational and discussed in people's homes, over the dinner table and at work. The purpose of this chapter is to discuss some tragic events and some not so tragic, in an attempt to understand something of the hazards and concerns faced by the early settlers, and to relate something about the doctors who attended them.

### Accidents

The death of a young man who was working on the Springs Run in 1861 certainly affected everyone who knew him. Apparently he had been drinking at a local establishment and as FitzGerald wrote to a friend, he had "got some brandy and not a little fresh".<sup>1</sup> In this condition he rode back to the run and on the way made the mistake of dismounting to herd a notoriously unpredictable bull with his dogs and in the process struck the animal on the head with a stick. The enraged animal attacked and gave him no chance at all.

There were other accidents involving young people who were playing or working around horses. In February 1871 two Lincoln lads were injured in separate incidents. One was kicked in the head and so severely injured that he had to be taken to hospital, while a second was treated at home after being kicked in the leg.<sup>2</sup> Five years later the 11 year old son of Henry Major was killed when he fell from a horse. At the time he was employed at the railway station and on this particular day caught the station master's horse and was thrown as he tried to mount it. His legs became tangled in the tether and he died after being dragged along the ground by the startled horse which was stopped by passing workmen.<sup>3</sup> These accidents, and especially the last, would have been, widely discussed and some may even have commented about the practice by the Railway Department of employing an eleven year old. Or was the job a private arrangement between the Station Master and Henry Major?

Other tragedies included drowning and suicide. John Blair was found drowned in a creek near his home by his daughter, and despite the best efforts of neighbours and Dr. Durham, the

local doctor, he could not be revived.<sup>4</sup> The young son of William Brook tragically drowned in a water barrel which took the run-off from his cottage roof. At the inquest the coroner heard that the child, a toddler of three, was playing with his brother when he fell into the half empty barrel, could not get out, and drowned before help arrived. The district must have been saddened by the death of lonely Agnes Mouatt, recently arrived from the Shetland Islands and employed as house help by W.B. Andrew of Greenpark. One night she went to bed early and when she did not appear the following morning a search discovered her drowned in the pig tub. The coroner heard that Agnes had been depressed and returned a verdict of suicide while in a state of temporary insanity.<sup>5</sup>

## Fire

For settlers on the Canterbury Plains fire was something to be feared and the smoke from fierce grass fires on Banks Peninsula and elsewhere would have attracted attention in many parts of Canterbury. In his reminiscences T.W. Adams<sup>6</sup> remembered that the harvest of 1863, not an especially good one because of a very dry summer, was made all the more difficult when fire swept the plains from the Waimakariri to the Selwyn. Although he and his employer, T.A. Pannett, saved their wheat, others less fortunate lost their crops to the fires which continued to burn for months in the swamps close to Lincoln and Prebbleton. That summer must have been a difficult one, for in February the Provincial Government offered a reward of 100 pounds for information leading to the conviction of anyone who through carelessness or negligence set fire to "bush, scrub, grass, fern, flax or other vegetation".<sup>7</sup> The courts took a serious view of such disasters and in September of that year a farmer was awarded substantial damages by the Supreme Court against a neighbour, who through careless use of fire destroyed 300 acres of his bush.

Some fires were started through gross negligence or vindictiveness. Messrs Wright and Murray of Lincoln lost about 90 acres of wheat, cut and ready for binding, when an employee lit his pipe, and threw the match to the ground starting a fire, which fanned by a strong nor'wester, soon spread over the paddock.<sup>8</sup> The fire cost the farmers an estimated 1000 pounds and doubtless the employee his job. A happier outcome is reported for a fire on Patrick Henley's farm in December 1870. Although fire destroyed a stack containing 300-400 bushels of barley, prompt action by Mr. Henley and his neighbours saved eight others; fortunately the crop was insured and so his loss was negligible. Fifteen months later the Henleys were the victims of an act of arson which one night destroyed six stacks of recently harvested and uninsured wheat.<sup>10</sup> Next morning, prints of a long,

narrow boot resembling those worn by a female were found near the stacks and a box of matches was found by the fence through which entry to the stacks was apparently made. The nature of the footprints, and the supposition that a man would have pocketed the match box, led to the suspicion that the arsonist was a woman. The Provincial government offered a substantial reward for information leading to the culprit, but no one was apprehended for this outrage.

There was personal tragedy for Mrs. Welsh, an elderly woman who lived near the Wheatsheaf Hotel, and who lost everything when her thatched house burnt to the ground. Her plight so affected the local community that a subscription list was opened for her relief. The Gordons on Springs Road were also heavy losers when fire destroyed their stable, the horse that was in it, and another shed and its contents; like Mrs. Welsh they too, were uninsured.

The most dramatic fire in the village destroyed the town hall on the night of 10 June 1889. The town hall, transformed from the old Perthshire Arms Hotel and opened with great celebration in December 1886, was well alight by the time the fire was discovered. It was burnt to the ground in thirty minutes. A strong north-west wind made fire fighting almost impossible and the best that could be done by the “bucket brigade” was to safeguard Bartram's new hotel next door and Howell's store on the opposite side of Market Square. Fortunately, the strong wind directed the flames away from the hotel although the heat was so intense that many of its windows were shattered. The events of the night meant that the village again had no suitable hall, a loss not rectified until the Druids built their hall in 1893 on the site now occupied by the Community Centre.

Henry Meyenberg's workshop, and perhaps his home, on Gerald Street (now the site of shops from Hammer Hardware to Felix the Café) were destroyed by fire in about 1881, a loss which may have helped him decide to leave for Taranaki a short time afterwards. A few years later a workshop belonging to saddler F.J. Finn was burnt to the ground.<sup>12</sup> The fire, first noticed in the early hours of the morning, destroyed most of Mr. Finn's tools, and the saddlery he had accepted for repair, but fortunately he was covered by insurance.

## Accidents

Just as happens today, people were killed or injured on the roads, the railway, and in work-related accidents. There were serious accidents on farms involving threshing machines and in 1880 when a man died as a result of one such accident, the coroner asked that the stage from which the



machines were fed be provided with rails in order to give the workers some protection from serious injury. There was a tragic accident at the railway station when a boy about fourteen years old attempted to board a moving train, slipped, and was so seriously injured that he died shortly after being admitted to hospital. To get medical attention as quickly as possible, the boy was put on the train which stopped at Tancred's Road to pick up Dr. Preston who lived nearby and who accompanied the boy to the hospital.<sup>13</sup>

## The doctors

Accounts of events such as an accident or a sudden death were often presented as short paragraphs in the newspapers with little or no information about the doctors who may have attended the scene of an accident. Here we attempt an account of those pioneer doctors who used their skills to aid the injured, help the sick, and to maintain public health, under circumstances which are difficult to comprehend today.

The names of those who attended patients in the first decade of Lincoln's history are unknown, and the only doctor certainly associated with Lincoln is the coroner, Dr. Coward, who was based in Christchurch. In 1866 he found that young Betsy Rollo, whose family farmed in the district, had died of natural causes and four years later that Patsy Egan had died of "disease of the heart" whilst cutting flax in a paddock on Mackey's farm at the corner of the Lincoln Tai Tapu Road and Ellesmere Road (Stoddart's Corner).

The primary school centenary booklet refers to a Dr. Pin who worked in the district, but his identity remains a mystery. However, a Dr. Prins was practising in Christchurch from about 1876 and the reference may well have been to him.<sup>14</sup> He attended Jemsina Sluis, entrepreneurial wife of Joseph Sluis, the first hotel keeper in Lincoln, in her last illness, and would have been known in the district although at the time the Sluis's were were living in Christchurch. The first doctor to be certainly associated with the village was Dr. Patrick, who in 1871 was practising in Oxford Terrace, when he attended a Lincoln boy who had broken his leg.<sup>15</sup> Dr. Patrick came to New Zealand in 1866 for health reasons and soon established himself in Christchurch where he practised for some years before returning to England. Poor health forced his return to New Zealand where he remained until his death in 1894.

The first doctor to live reasonably close to Lincoln was Dr. W.H. Symes who settled in Prebbleton in 1873,<sup>16</sup> but he seems to have lived there for only a short time, because by 1875 Dr. J.C. Durham had replaced him. Dr. Durham was the first local doctor known to attend patients in Lincoln. In 1875 The Press reported that Dr. Durham of Prebbleton was called to attend a Lincoln man who had attempted suicide, and that he examined John Blair who drowned in a creek near his home in Lincoln.<sup>17</sup> Dr. Durham was born in India, trained in the United Kingdom, and moved to New Zealand about 1874 where he was registered as a medical practitioner. After registration he worked in Akaroa Hospital as Medical Officer before moving to the Prebbleton-Lincoln area in 1875 where he remained until about 1878 when T.O. Guthrie became the resident doctor. It was during Dr. Durham's tenure that a public dispensary opened in Lincoln. It was run by a Mr. W.H. Brodrick who "could offer advice, provide medicine, and visit" patients as required, for a moderate price!<sup>18</sup> It is not known how long the dispensary was in business.

Dr. Guthrie practised in Lincoln, but like all his colleagues he had a large district to serve and his health suffered as a consequence. Although not much is known of his activities in the district he was much respected and there was consternation when it was announced that indifferent health demanded that he took an extended break from his work. Because it was hoped that he would return within the year it was resolved at a public meeting that rather than sell his practice he should employ a *locum tenens*. Any *locum* employed by Dr Guthrie would be welcomed. Dr A.C. Preston who was chosen to fill the gap was not so popular. An advertisement, placed by well known locals, advising the "inhabitants of Lincoln, Tai Tapu, Springston, and surrounding districts" that as Dr. Guthrie was "unable to resume his practice amongst us" a public meeting was called to consider the possibility of employing a second doctor in the district.<sup>19</sup> The well attended meeting generated heated debate and it seemed that a second doctor would satisfy most, until J.C. Tancred pointed out that such a decision, with its implications of incompetence on the part of Dr. Preston, would doubtless result in the departure of the incumbent doctor and was unlikely to encourage another to consider moving to the area. This argument carried the day and it was finally agreed that Lincoln and surrounding districts did not have the population to support two doctors.

Dr. Guthrie, a Scot, did not return to Lincoln but instead practised in Timaru where the work load was lighter. About ten years later, in 1884, he moved to Lyttelton as Public Health Officer as well as holding a commission in the volunteers. He died in Wellington in December 1917 when he

was on Army Medical Board business. The unfortunate Dr. Preston soon left Lincoln to work first in Amberley and then in Napier before returning to live in Sumner where he died of pulmonary tuberculosis at the age of 37 leaving a widow and six children to grieve for him.<sup>20</sup>

It is difficult to know why there was such strong feeling against him, but it is possible that failing health and the difficulties of serving a scattered population in a large rural area did not help. Certainly, when he treated two Peryman children following an accident his conduct could not be faulted, but later when a daughter informed him that she no longer required his care during her pregnancy he replied that he would not cancel the arrangement and expected his usual fee no matter who attended her.<sup>21</sup> This abrasive response may provide a clue to his apparent unpopularity, for of all the doctors involved in 19<sup>th</sup> century Lincoln Dr. Preston was often involved in litigation wherever he was working. On the other hand he may have known his time was short, and that with six children his widow would need all the resources possible to care for them.

Dr. Preston was followed by Dr. James Cooke who served the district for many years.<sup>22</sup> He was born in Belfast, trained in Ireland and Edinburgh, moved to New Zealand soon after qualifying and in 1885 began his long association with Lincoln which ended only with his death in 1918. Dr. Cooke was highly respected and became so much a part of the community that he sent his children to the local primary school, the first of the Lincoln medical fraternity to do so. As with his predecessors, his practice covered a wide area and the demands on his time and energy would have been considerable, but unlike them he would have enjoyed the benefits of improved roads, and for some of his time, the motor car, and the telephone. There was dismay among members of the Lincoln Domain Board though, when he applied to the Springs Road Board to channel the drainage from his property into the L1 north of the Gerald Street bridge. The continued pollution of this small river was a never ending problem for the Domain Board and there seemed to be no easy solution although a compromise of sorts was reached which is described in the discussion on local government.

Dr. Cooke apparently employed other doctors. One was Dr. F.G. Westenra who seems to have been the first native-born to work in the district. Although he was educated at Christ's College he studied medicine in Edinburgh, qualifying in 1885, and probably met Dr. Cooke there. On his return to Christchurch in 1886 he worked as Medical Superintendent for the Hospital Board, but resigned the following year, quoting the Hippocratic Oath as justification. He had admitted a patient,

seriously ill with syphilis, against the Board's wishes which considered the man's plight to be a moral problem, rather than a medical one.

He then began to work in Lincoln where he was not only practising as a doctor, but was also active in various village activities. He was involved with the cricket club, the improvement society, the rifle club, the Masonic lodge, St. Stephen's church, and in a professional capacity, with the Springston Druids Lodge. By 1891, however, he had left Lincoln and was based in Hawera for about twelve years before returning to Christchurch. At the time of his death in January 1917 he was still in private practice and in addition was police surgeon and an honorary surgeon at the public hospital.<sup>23</sup>

At first doctors were based in Christchurch or Prebbleton. However, in 1876 Dr. Durham bought a section in James St. (Lot 16 Block IV) for 20 pounds and may have built a house and lived there until he left the district in 1878. If he did build a house it may have been rented out, for the Lincoln School centennial booklet states that the early doctors practised from a house in Tancred's Road on land owned "at one time by Dunn". This was a 50 acre block, RS1904, on the corner of Tancred's Road and Lower Springs Road (Birchs Road) and acquired by David Dunn in 1861 as a Crown grant. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century a house a few hundred metres west of the Birchs Road-Tancred's Road corner was known as Prestonville. It is likely that this was the site of the home and surgery of Dr. Preston, perhaps of Dr. Guthrie, and probably for a short time at least, of Dr. Cooke, and of those like Dr. Westenra, who worked with him. Dr. Cooke bought a section on the corner of Edward Street and Fitz Place in 1895 and from then on the house built there was the home of the incumbent doctor and medical centre for the district until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century doctors looked after their communities with concern and compassion. Whenever there were outbreaks of diphtheria they would report the matter to the Road Board which would consider the problem as a local Health Board. The Springs Road Board acted in this way when there were reports of diphtheria in the district and when complaints were received about health risks resulting from poor drainage in Lincoln. The doctors also could be licensed vaccinators as claimed by Dr. Preston, when he defended himself in court on a complaint alleging that he had not fulfilled his obligations to his patient in the matter of due care after a difficult procedure.

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2. Weekly Press 16 February 1871, 25 February 1871.
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4. Ibid 11 August 1875. See [Papers Past](#).
5. Ibid 14 September 1874. See [Papers Past](#). Coroner's report.
6. Adams, T.W. 1917. [Early Lincoln](#). Canterbury Agricultural College Magazine, pp467-474
7. The Press 11 February 1863. See [Papers Past](#).
8. Ibid 23 September 1863. See [Papers Past](#).
9. The Weekly Press 19 December 1870.
10. Lyttelton Times 18 March 1872. See [Papers Past](#).
11. Ibid 11 June 1887. See [Papers Past](#).
12. Ibid 2 December 1886. See [Papers Past](#).
13. Star 31 March 1894. See [Papers Past](#)
14. Ibid 9 November 1896. Obituary. See [Papers Past](#)
15. Weekly Press 25 February 1871.
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17. The Press 12 April 1875, 11 August 1875. See [Papers Past](#).
18. Weekly Press 2 September 1876.
19. The Press 26 September 1883. See [Papers Past](#).
20. New Zealand Medical Journal 1916 Vol 17 p 39, Supplement Canterbury Times 14 February 14 1892. Obituaries
21. Elizabeth of Lavington L.J. Trask 1976.
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## THE END OF THE CENTURY

Lincoln was born during momentous times. The American Civil War was raging, the North Island was fighting the Maori Wars, and thousands were flocking to the Otago and Westland gold fields. The closing years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the next were just as exciting. In 1893 New Zealand women won the right to vote, in 1899 the Boer War broke out, Richard Seddon leader of the Liberal Party was Premier, in 1901 Queen Victoria died and was succeeded by her son, the Prince of Wales, who became Edward VII.

The franchise was a triumph for the women of New Zealand, and Lincoln women played their part. The names of local women who signed the petition seeking the franchise appear in the Lincoln Historical Society's Newsletter No. 5 in July 1993, and include Jane Banks, M.A. Blythen, M. Doherty, S. and A. Haughton, Elizabeth and Annie Morrish and Jane Wolfe. Scrutiny of electoral rolls for the election following granting of the franchise shows that some were quick to take up that right. The event was so radical that the Bishops of Christchurch, Anglican and Roman Catholic, were constrained to make comment to their respective flocks.

Anglican Bishop Julius addressed a pastoral letter to the ladies of the diocese which was read in every parish. He outlined their responsibilities under the new act and urged all women to "exercise your right of voting, soberly, fearlessly, and as in the sight of God" in order to avoid the excesses of "a small and fanatical section of the community" (the suffragettes?) and to ensure that the true influence of women would not be lost to the country. On the same day Bishop Grimes addressed a meeting of Catholic women in much the same vein. He referred to the constitutional revolution which the country had gone through and although he knew that many had not wanted the franchise they now had a duty to register and to vote for the greater good. He fully supported the comments made by Bishop Julius and said that as the "eyes of the civilised world were upon them" they must exercise their vote.<sup>1</sup> A hundred years later it is difficult to imagine the relief and concern with which this decision was received, but although the right to vote is firmly entrenched there are still issues which many women feel discriminate against them.

The Boer War of 1899–1902 saw a contingent of cavalry from Canterbury, including nine men from Lincoln district, fighting in the Transvaal. Their names are remembered on the Roll of Honour



in the Community Centre, and of these nine, three, J.H. Hurford, L. O'Callaghan and J. Thomas did not return. Patriotic Funds to support the boys overseas were set up and the Springs Road Board was asked to encourage subscriptions for this purpose. The slow response forced Board members to canvass their districts in order to solicit donations for the cause, and one hopes that they were successful. Shortly after the war began, several towns were laid under siege, the most famous being the siege of Mafeking. The British troops, under the command of Colonel Baden-Powell, later Lord Baden-Powell and founder of the Boy Scout movement, withstood the siege for 217 days and when relieved, celebrations were held throughout the empire. Lincoln was no exception and I quote in full The Star account of the celebrations here<sup>2</sup>.

*The relief was celebrated in Lincoln in an enthusiastic manner. The church, school, fire and other bells were rung, the township meanwhile being decorated with bunting. In the evening the fun commenced properly. A couple of "Short Toms", the very existence of which had been kept a close secret, were brought out. At seven o'clock they belched forth, and for two hours, under the supervision of Gunners Restall and Bartram, their roar was continuous. Volleys were fired by a squad of infantry [of the Defence Rifle Club, perhaps] under Corporal Doherty. Coloured fires, manipulated by Mr. Walton, and a display of fireworks, illuminated the scene. A huge bonfire was lighted, and as the spectators closed round, patriotic songs were sung with vigour. Mr. Cookson read the congratulatory telegram from the Acting-Premier and three hearty cheers having been given for Lord Roberts, Colonel Baden-Powell and Our Boys at the front, the assemblage dispersed, after spiritedly singing the National Anthem.*

On January 22 1901 Queen Victoria died. The country was plunged into mourning, a sharp contrast to the jubilation of the previous year. Her death was the end of an era and marked the beginning of the twilight years of the British Empire which was to experience the trauma of two world wars in the first half of the 20th century.

At the turn of the century Lincoln was a small country village, and although its citizens played their part in national life, the village retained its rural character until the last three decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when sections east of the L1 began to fill up and development of surrounding farmland began to gain momentum. Lincoln in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is no longer a quiet rural village. Today it has a population of about 3000, an expanding commercial presence, and is a major centre for

agricultural and biological research. However, this account deals with the foundation years from 1862 to 1900, and it is left to others to take the story forward into the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.



*57. Aerial view of Lincoln in 1946. Courtesy of V. C. Browne.*

## Postscript

Since this account was written Canterbury, and Christchurch in particular, have been rocked by many devastating earthquakes. The first, of magnitude 7.1 magnitude, and centred on Darfield, struck at 4.35 am on Saturday 4 September, 2010, and the second on Tuesday 22 February 2011 at 12.51 pm. The first caused widespread damage, but took no lives, the second centred on Lyttelton wrecked that town, the eastern suburbs of Christchurch, the central business district of that city, and took nearly 200 lives. Lincoln was much more fortunate. The first shake damaged several buildings including the Famous Grouse Hotel and St. Stephen's and St. Patrick's churches, buildings at Lincoln University as well as some homes and many chimneys. The hotel was so badly damaged

that it was demolished. The second caused little damage, although parts of the surrounding countryside were badly affected by liquefaction, but in neither earthquake was there loss of life. Our town is built on deep clay loams which are much more stable than the sands and silts underlying some suburbs such as Halswell and Bexley and the town of Kaiapoi. In these and other suburbs liquefaction was widespread and terrifying.

The memory of these events, and the many aftershocks which followed, will remain with those who experienced it for the rest of their lives. Despite the trauma and grief for those who died and for our city, we are grateful for the help which poured in from around the world and know that the city in one form or another will rise from the ruins.

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1. Star. 2 October 1893. See [Papers Past](#)
2. Ibid 21 May 1900. See [Papers Past](#)





*58. The remains of the mill pond as seen from the Ryeland's walkway. Courtesy of N. T. Moar.*

## TIME LINES

### MAJOR EVENTS IN 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY LINCOLN

**1852** – FitzGerald leases land in the Lincoln area (Run 134) and continues to add to his holding, The Springs, until by 1858 he occupies Springs Station in partnership with Percy Cox. The Station stretched from the mouth of the Selwyn River to the Ladbrooks Railway Station and from there ran across the Main South Road to Coringa and other runs.

**1858** – William and Mary Tod move from Riccarton to farm (RS 1483) on the Lincoln - Tai Tapu Road. Mrs Tod opens a school in her home.

**1862** – Patrick O'Reilly operates smithy in Robert Street. Advertisements for sale of sections in Lincoln subdivision appear in newspapers.

**1863** – Sale of Lincoln sections underway. School transferred to building on land FitzGerald designated as Scotch Reserve. Tancred Report on education presented to Provincial Council. Springs Road Board and Lincoln Road Board elected in accordance with Provincial Council's Road Board Ordinance.

**1865** - The first ploughing match in the district held at Prebbleton.

**1866** - Presbyterians build their first church. Provincial government builds primary school.

**1867** – Moffat builds mill on the L1. A Lincoln team plays the first cricket match known to have been played in Lincoln.

**1868** – Provincial government grants a wine and beer licence to Perthshire Arms hotel.

**1869** – First official post office opens, probably in school house, when the local school master, H.C. Jacobson, takes on job of post master. The Lincoln Fair Company begins operations with a capital of 150 pounds. The Unsectarian Sunday School, supported by Presbyterians, Anglicans, and Baptists, starts at the Presbyterian church.

**1870** – The first New Year sports meeting with horse and foot races held.

**1871** – Roman Catholics build first church on Shands Track. The Lincoln Farmers' Club formed.

**1872** – The Lincoln Farmers' Club holds its first show in the Fair Company's grounds. Geddes' Lincoln Brewery opens. Joseph Henry Sluis holds country hotel licence.

**1874** – The Lincoln library opens. New bridge built across the L1.

**1875** – The Lincoln railway station opens. Post office opens at the station.

**1876** – First police station opens on Boundary Road. Anglicans build their first vicarage (now The Gables) on Gerald Street.

**1877** – Bishop Harper dedicates St. Stephen's Church. Baptists build chapel on Gerald Street. Site now the Vale commercial precinct. A new cricket club set up following demise of the first.

**1878** – Joseph and Henry Clark open store in Market Square later taken over by the Howell brothers.

**1879** – The Lincoln Farmers' Club abandons its show.

**1880** - The School of Agriculture opens with thirteen students. The Masonic Lodge established. The Star of Anglesea (Druids) Lodge opens.

**1882** – First services held in the new Presbyterian church. FitzGerald conveys title of the River Reserve to the Crown. Lincoln Domain Board set up.

**1883** – The Lincoln Fair Company ceases all operations. The first few miles of the Lincoln to Little River railway line opens.

**1884** – New hotel opens on corner of Gerald Street and William Street.

**1886** – The old Perthshire Arms hotel building renovated and becomes Lincoln's town hall. Lincoln Lawn Tennis Club formed. The Lincoln to Little River railway line opens.

**1888** – The third cricket club formed after the second had failed several years earlier.

**1889** - The town hall burns to ground.

**1893** – The right to vote granted to women. Druids build their hall; converted to Community Centre in 1961.

**1898** – Swimming pool opened at Lincoln Primary School.

**1900** – Library building, now known as Pioneer Hall, moves to present site on north-west corner of Market Square.



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***FitzGerald's Town tells the story of Lincoln and its first forty years from foundation in 1862 to about 1900.***

***It discusses early business activity, the efforts of the farming community to improve their lot, the development of infrastructure, and its impact upon the village and district.***

***This is the story of those who lived there, of the churches they built, the organisations they supported, the games they played and the tragedies they shared.***



Neville Moar grew up in Pohangina, a small rural community in the Manawatu overlooked by the southern Ruahine Ranges, where he and his two brothers were raised on the family farm. He was educated at Pohangina Primary School, at Feilding Agricultural High School, at what is now Victoria University of Wellington, and at the University of Cambridge in England. In 1947, he was employed by Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and transferred to Christchurch when the Division was moved to that city in 1954. In 1960, Botany Division moved into purpose-built laboratories at Lincoln, now occupied by its successor, Landcare Research. In 1964, after returning from study in England, Neville bought a cottage in Maurice Street, married, and with Maria, raised three children there. On arrival he knew nothing about the township of Lincoln, but he embraced his new home and quickly developed an active interest in local history, involved in projects such as the relocation of the Liffey Cottage in 1977. After officially retiring from Landcare Research in 1987, he began researching the founding years of the Lincoln village. What began as a hobby, culminated in a meticulously researched self-published print version of "Fitzgerald's Town – Lincoln in the 19th Century" in 2011. This account quickly became a definitive work for the early history of Lincoln and districts. Following his death in June 2016 it was decided to publish a second edition in a digital format, making this valuable resource accessible to a wider audience and paving the way for others to take the story forward into the 20th and 21st centuries.